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GYMPIE

## Gympie & the Shamblers

an historical narrative

by Keith Parker

### Newbery & Shambler

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# **GYMPIE AND THE SHAMBLERS**

(An historical narrative)

**A history of Gympie Queensland,  
as it related to the Shambler Family**

**OR**

**A history of the Shamblers  
as they related to Gympie.**

by  
Keith D. Parker

Dedicated to

the Author's mother, the late Mrs Olive Parker nee Shambler (1903-2003)  
and  
to all the Newbery, Pring and Shambler families who helped in the development of  
Gympie in its first 60 years.

**WITH APPENDIX –  
The Life of Olive Vera Parker**

Published at Gympie, Queensland – © Keith D. Parker - 2011  
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## FOREWORD by Mayor Ron Dyne



Gympie Regional Council

Gympie is a city with a long and proud tradition. From its early days as a gold mining town it has evolved into a modern vibrant city.

What makes a city are the people who have inhabited that city and Gympie is fortunate to retain descendants of its early pioneers.

Keith has brought together stories of three particular pioneering families. This book is not a family tree, it is an historical narrative.

While much of Gympie's history has been lost with the passing of time and the movement of families, we are fortunate however, that a lot has been retained in our buildings, street names, hill names and locality names.

It is pleasing to have another book, written from a different angle, but bringing together many stories from our city's past.

It is a great honour to be given the opportunity to write a foreword to an historical book on Gympie. I congratulate Keith on his achievement in researching, compiling and having this book produced. All cities need to remember their past.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Dyne'.

Cr Ron Dyne, Mayor



## *FOREWORD - Dr Elaine Brown*

*As a long-time 'Friend of the Library' in Gympie, Keith Parker has been a great help in the Local History section. Indeed, I bless him every time that I open one of the old Council Rate Valuation Registers which he happily indexed for us soon after we acquired them.*

*Keith's enquiring mind has led him to investigate a diverse range of topics - from the life of the Biblical Herod Kings, and the history of Gympie's Commonwealth Bank, to the Sporting Champions of Gympie Region. He has also published a tribute to his late wife, the talented musician Noela Parker, also a book about the fighting career of one of Gympie's favourite sons, the 1920's boxer Archie Bradley.*

*Keith's interest in Gympie's history led him to investigate his mother's family - the Shamblers, who operated a prominent Gympie business and they contributed to the social and cultural life of the district for three generations. It was a pleasure to meet Keith's mother, Olive Parker nee Shambler, her mind as clear as a bell when in her late nineties, also to help Keith work out the meaning of the term "bell hanger", which was one of the skills the Shambler family brought with them from England.*

*Compiling genealogies and family histories is a long and arduous task. After years of dedicated research, Keith's methodical acquisition of facts, stories, photos and advertisements has come to fruition in *Gympie and the Shamblers*. Finding it difficult to separate the family from the district, Keith has applied a whimsical sub-title: *A History of Gympie as it related to the Shambler family, or a History of the Shamblers as they related to Gympie*.*

*By providing an introduction to the history of Gympie, this book, dense with information, goes further than the usual family history. I hope Keith's approach will encourage other historians to reveal the links between businesses, businessmen and the development of the Gympie Region.*

*Dr Elaine Brown,*

*Local History Officer,  
Gympie Libraries.  
January 2011*



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# GYMPIE AND THE SHAMBLERS

## Introduction

Commencing work at the Commonwealth Bank at Wynnum in 1944, I concluded a life-time's banking career at the bank's Gympie branch in 1985.

I had always known that my mother Olive Parker (nee Shambler) had been born at Gympie in 1903. I had also known that her mother Sarah Jane Shambler (nee Pring) was also born in Gympie - in 1872. That was less than five years after James Nash discovered the Gympie goldfield. Her father - Richard Loram Pring, one of my great grandfathers, had arrived at the settlement within a year of its founding.

Soon after my arrival in Gympie, I became a member of both the *Gympie Family History Society* and the *Gympie & District Historical Society*.

Later, after becoming a volunteer with Gympie Regional Library's *Friends of the Library* group (then the Cooloola Shire Library), I was urged by many colleagues who are interested in local history to do some family research.

I thank all the friends who have helped in matters like scanning and my special thanks to my great-niece Joanne Shambler for her editing.

Because the Shamblers were businessmen from the 1880s to the 1930s, a primary source apart from family records was 'The Gympie Times' - now in its 144th year.

## Acknowledgments

The material in this book has come from many sources including:-

1. 'The Gympie Times.'
2. 'Gympie in its Cradle Days - Jubilee - 1917.'
3. 'Gympie in its Cradle Days' - republished 1938.
4. 'Historical Sketch of Gympie 1867-1927.'
5. 'A Golden Past - A Golden Future. - Gympie 1867-1967.'
6. 'Cooloola Shire ...a golden past' - 2001
7. 'Aldine's History of Queensland' - 1868
8. *Post Office Directories*.
9. 'An Outline of the History of the City of Maryborough, 1836-1959.' - published 1964.
10. 'Winds of Change - 100 years in the Widgee Shire.' - Ian Pedley.
11. 'Surface Hill Uniting Church - 1890-1990'. - Marjorie Head
12. Cooloola Regional Library Local History Section.
13. Fellow 'historians' in Gympie.
14. Photographs:
  - John Oxley Library (JOL)
  - The Gympie Times (GT)
  - Keith Waser Collection (KW)
  - Gympie Regional Library (GL)
  - Historical Sketch of Gympie - 1867 and 1927 (HSG)





## GYMPIE AND THE SHAMBLERS

For over 50 years, from the 1880s to the 1930s, the names of Shambler and Newbery were household names in Gympie, indeed throughout a large part of south-east Queensland.

Only 15 years after the discovery in 1867 of the Gympie goldfield, a small business was started by Mr William Newbery, a migrant from England. In due course, this business became a huge ironmongery, plumbing, crockery, clothing, furniture and grocery establishment, finally called Shamblers Limited, with branch stores at Cooroy and at Imbil. At one time, Shamblers was acknowledged as one of the largest businesses of its kind in Queensland outside Brisbane.

A summary of these businesses as "Universal Providers" can be set out as follows:

- 1882 W.A. Newbery, Sole Proprietor, in *Upper Mary Street* (now No.193) – Gunsmith, Locksmith, Plumbing and Ironmongery.
- 1885 Newbery and Squire with a second shop opposite.
- 1889 Newbery and Shambler
- 1892 W.H. Shambler, Managing Director.
- 1899 Adjoining premises leased at corner of Monkland and Mary Streets.
- 1909 Large building purchased in *Lower Mary Street* (now No.24), with three "departments" being Furniture and Furnishings, Plumbing and Farming, Crockery and Glassware.
- 1915 Drapery Department opened also a Men's Department
- 1916 Imbil Store opened, trading as Imbil Plumbing Works
- 1916 Shamblers Limited.
- 1917 Grocery Department opened.
- 1917 Cooroy Store opened.
- 1920 Motor Department opened.
- 1930 Mercery Department added.
- 1935 Gympie business sold to Abdy Brothers.  
Imbil and Cooroy businesses sold.

Linked by marriage to the Shamblers of Gympie were other well-known families also involved in business.

- i. the R.L. Pring family, Storekeepers in Gympie and Amamoor,
- ii. the A.J. Fisher family, Master Butchers in Gympie.



## GYMPIE, A CITY OF HILLS - AND GULLIES

Today's City of Gympie bears little resemblance to the Gympie Creek Gold Diggings of the 1870s and the 1880s. Its hills however will always remain. Gympie has been called (like Rome) a *City of Seven Hills*. However, there are over 20 named hills in the area.

The source of some of those names is obvious – Commissioner's Hill, Hospital Hill, Surface Hill, Red Hill, Pound Hill and Brewery Hill. Then there are the hills named after residents for example - O'Connell, Tozer, Storer, Pilcher, McAuliffe and Ferguson.

It is also interesting to note that there are also over 20 named gullies in Gympie, all leading into the Mary River. The origin of some of these names were surnames such as Ashford's, Langton's, Hall's, Nash's, Sailor's and Tozer's, but others have descriptive names like Oriental Gully, Slaughter House Gully, Scrubby Gully and Brickfield Gully.

Queensland's golden city has always been known as *The Town that Saved Queensland*. It is a title worn with pride by the citizens of a thriving provincial city that is the commercial and administration centre of the Gympie Region. Today the Region is in a strong growth phase, owing much of its prosperity to its historical past.

Gympie was declared a city in 1905, today's Gympie Regional Council having been formed in March 2008. This Regional Council now comprises what was previously –

- i. Cooloolo Shire Council, (Gympie City Council and Widgee Shire Council having been merged in November 1993.)
- ii. Kilkivan Shire, and
- iii. a part of Tiaro Shire.

Today's Gympie Region, with an area of 6,900 sq kms, supports a growing population of some 46000 with a strong and diverse community.

From the time of the first white settlement in Australia at Botany Bay in 1788, the whole of Australia's east coast was called the Colony of New South Wales. In 1853 Victoria was proclaimed a separate colony, with Queensland becoming an independent colony of the British Empire in 1859. At that time, Queensland's population was just a few thousand. Most people lived in the Moreton Bay District at Brisbane, Redcliffe, Cleveland and Ipswich, and on the Darling Downs, with a number of small settlements having been established up the coast at such 'port towns' as Maryborough.

In 1859, the first Government in the Colony of Queensland faced many problems associated with the small population and a large territory. The economy of the colony relied on a pastoral industry which occupied large tracts of land but employed comparatively few people. The Government realised that an increase in the Colony's working population would be best for the Colony's economy.

A depleted Queensland Government Treasury in the early 1860s was close to bankruptcy. Many public works were closed down. Railway work was curtailed such as the train line which had been started between Ipswich and Toowoomba. Sackings and redundancies were prevalent on various developments. Two Brisbane banks had closed down. As well, a series of droughts and floods had helped to cripple the small rural-based industries of the new colony.

With such a small population and minimum industry, early Queensland Governments were obviously very short of funds. Therefore in order to boost the finances of the State through a new industry, Parliament advertised that a reward (substantial in those days), would be given to any person finding gold within 100 miles of Brisbane, the Capital of the Colony. The Government needed a miracle – and quickly.

Gympie's gold proved to be that miracle with James Nash, a travelling prospector, discovering gold in 1867.



## TIMBER and CATTLE

By the late 1860s, timber cutting had already been well advanced in the general area of Nash's find, with rainforest timber, hardwoods and hoop pine growing profusely. As early as the 1840s, that is well prior to the gold discovery, Mary River cedar and silky oak were articles of commerce earning a name on the Sydney and Melbourne markets due to their high quality and the cedar's bright colour. Cedar was in high demand for cabinet making and boat building as well as for houses and other buildings.



Cut on the banks of the Mary and its tributaries upstream of today's Gympie, logs on every rise in the river were rolled either into creeks or directly into the river. There they were tied into rafts, with periodic floods allowing the floating of the logs down to Maryborough. The timber was then secured and sent south by sailing ship or by steamer to Brisbane and Sydney – sometimes as sawn timber.

At times, thousands of cedar logs came down with the flood and would be jammed against the bridge. When the river fell significantly, up to 4000 logs would be collected, some of which remained on the banks for some time.

The Upper Mary area had been under pastoral occupation from the late 1840s. Formal Pastoral Leaseholds existed from the early 1850s with sheep initially being carried. In 1857, one Mary Valley property had an estimated carrying capacity of 6000 sheep with up to 1000 sheep on another property.

Sheep were however found to be unsuitable to the climate and a transition to cattle was made in a large part of south-east Queensland. What in due course became the settlement of Gympie was between Curra Station and Traverston Station. (The Railway Department subsequently mis-spelt this as Traveston.) In 1857 Widgee Station was west of the river. Another cattle run of 50 square miles was called Imbil (an Aboriginal name for a prolific growing vine) and yet another lease was called Amamoor. (The word "Traveston" became widely known in 2007-2010 because of a proposed Traveston Crossing Dam. This project was rejected on environmental grounds.)

The large Traverston property had been settled in 1864 by Thomas Powell. History tells us that three years later, the prospector James Nash had dropped in for supper on the eve of his momentous gold discovery. When land was resumed for selection in 1869, Powell retained the head station and remained there until his death, having owned much of the land on the eastern side of the Mary River.

White settlers in the pre-gold times were few and far between, but in their various areas, tribes of semi-nomadic Aboriginal people lived. Most were of the Kabi Kabi tribe.



Getting cattle to the Brisbane markets and further south was a long and tedious task, involving overlanding the cattle for many days. The arrival of thousands of miners and others in Gympie in 1867 and 1868 provided a very convenient market for the district's beef - at a price of around three pence per pound.

With the *Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1868*, the Queensland Government excised areas from the stations for closer settlement. At that time, the huge Imbil Station was carrying over 3000 head of cattle.

## ALLUVIAL GOLD

Alluvial gold is gold set free by the weathering of outcropping reefs, and washed into the adjoining water courses, gradually finding its way down to bedrock, often under many feet of clay, sand and gravel.

It was in the spring of 1867 that the sole prospector, James Nash (1834-1913), walked his horse through dense scrub down the side of a steep gully in the middle of *nowhere* - perhaps where no white man other than a very occasional herdsman had passed before. Today we would say he walked down on the Caledonian Hill side of what is now called Nash's Gully. Filling his dish and then washing the dirt and the rock in the creek, he found gold at what was to become known as the Gympie Creek Diggings.

Nash found 75 ounces of gold in six days before registering his claim with the Police Magistrate at Maryborough - 100 miles (or five to six days walking distance) away. That day - 14 October 1867 - has always been celebrated as Gympie's birth date, and is a time for the annual week-long Goldrush Festival. Nash's gold was found in the gully near where the Civic Centre and the Town Hall stand today. (Note - In 2010, the gold price was around \$900 per ounce. So on current values, Nash found gold worth over \$60,000 in just six days.)

Later on, the route from Maryborough to Gympie became a three or four days trip if weather conditions were favourable but the road for some years was little more than a rough track. The time of the journey could depend on the weather, that is, whether the creeks were up or how much mud was encountered en route. Gold Commissioner King was soon on the field issuing thousands of Licenses to Prospect, called Miner's Rights. At the beginning, it was every man for himself as claims were pegged out. Some men worked alone without help or hindrance from neighbours, but usually the miners worked in groups of four. The beds of the gullies were turned upside down in the mad scramble for the precious wash dirt. The native or 'free' gold was won by the simple task of panning the prospector's dish or washing through the miner's cradle. On occasions, gold was simply picked up in the form of nuggets; but the many thousands of men engaged in the work exhausted the alluvial gold in little more than a year.

It was a year or so before Nash was grudgingly granted a 1000 pounds reward for his discovery. This was notwithstanding the Government's initial decision that the reward would not be paid - because Nash's gold discovery was not within the 100 miles of Brisbane. With Nashville being 117 miles from Brisbane, bureaucrats even then sought to adhere strictly to the rules.

For a start, the region of Nash's find was called **Nash's Gully**. It is today marked by a square stone monument outside the Gympie Town Hall at one end of Gympie's winding main street. The area is now called the Fiveways, this corner being a significant feature of



Prospector's  
pan, pick, and  
shovel



today's city. It gets mentioned a number of times in our story. The first Nash memorial was originally erected as a fountain at the Fiveways in 1915 but was moved later to Memorial Park.

In 1868, the goldfield was first called Nashville and finally, by Government decree, the goldfields town was named Gympie, gimpi gimpi being an Aboriginal word for a native stinging shrub which grew abundantly in the area.

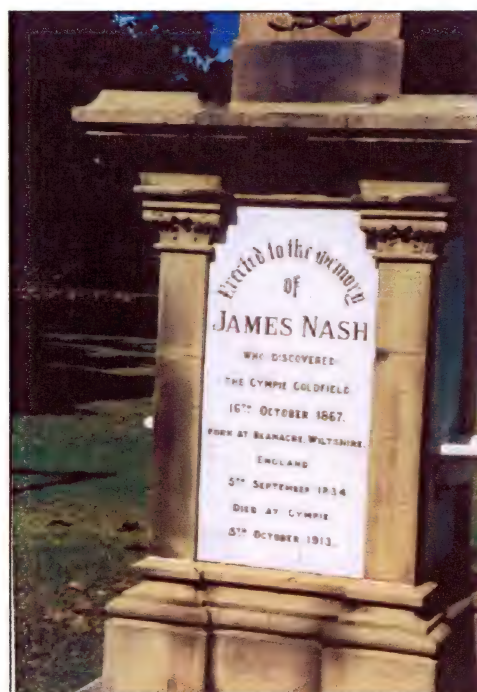
Perhaps it is worth noting that in 1851, the Victorian Government had also offered a reward of 200 pounds (\$400) for the finder of a payable goldfield within 200 miles of Melbourne. Ballarat, Bendigo and other gold discoveries followed. Certainly those Victorian fields changed the face of the province of Victoria and of Australia, and in the Colony of Queensland, discovery of gold rescued the fledgling colony from imminent financial collapse.



**A team of miners with their cradles**



**Ready for the  
goldfields with  
small tent, billy,  
tomahawk, food  
etc.**

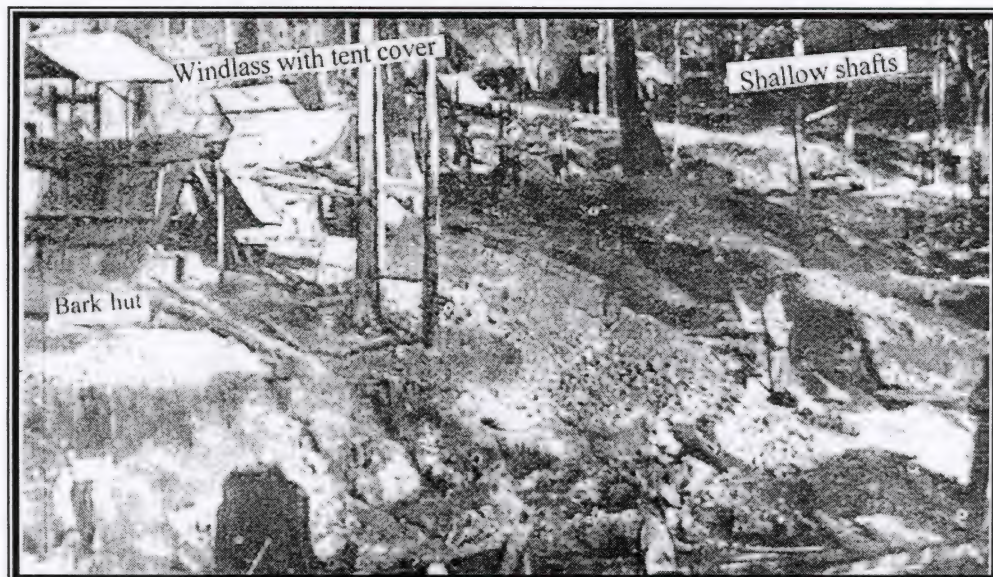


**In Memorial Park**





**Walking to the goldfields, pushing a home-made barrow  
containing all his possessions**

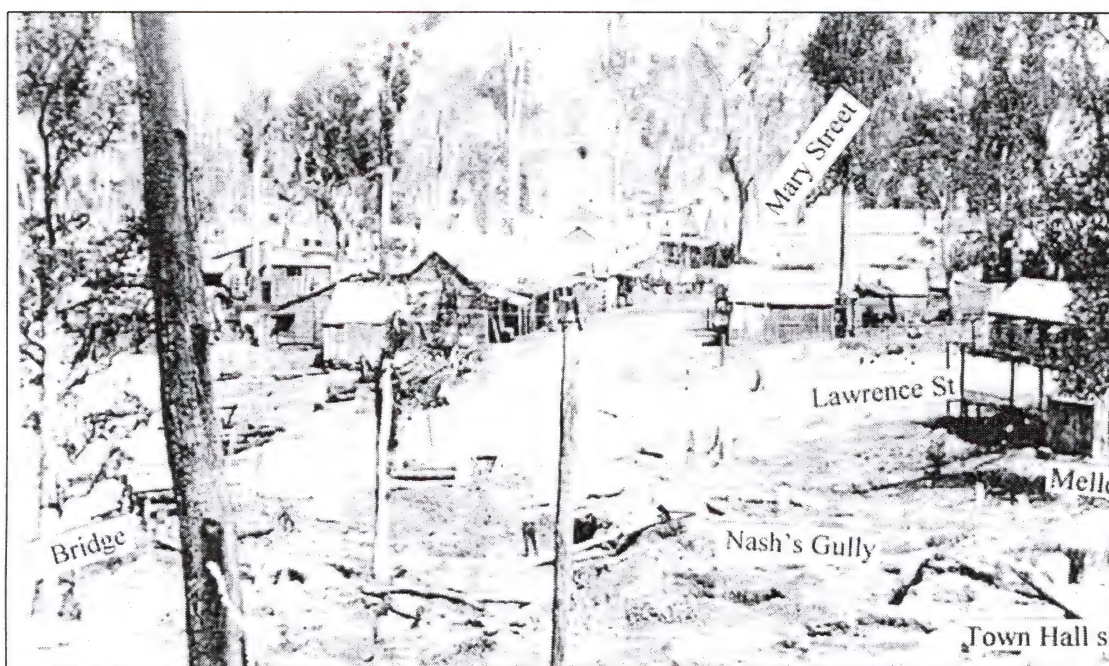


**Men working in Nash's Gully for alluvial gold – early 1868 (HSG)**





Overlooking Mary Street from Calton Hill in the 1870 flood. Today's Reef Street near Smithfield Street. (Nash's Gully (flooded) in the foreground: Church of England at top right: Booth's business in the foreground: his home on the hill with baby's washing on the line.) (Photo – KW)



1868 – From Caledonian Hill, looking across Mary Street (KW)



Gold was a major factor influencing the early growth of many big towns all over Australia. This applied particularly to Queensland, with Gympie and the coastal towns of Maryborough, Gladstone and Rockhampton all being built on gold dust.



**1868 – Nash's Gully – viewed from today's Memorial Park.  
The buildings face Mary Street. (KW)**

Nash's gold certainly saved the day for the Government and helped Queensland to stabilise as a separate Colony. Since gaining separation in 1859, the Colony had been starved not only for funds but also for population. The story goes that the Government's bank balance was down to almost zero but, with miners and potential miners coming from all parts of the Colonies and from overseas, the economy improved considerably.

With Nash's discovery leading to a subsequent increase in the Colony's population, unemployment vanished almost overnight. Of course, the converse elsewhere was that initially, Brisbane, Ipswich and the surrounding settlements were drained of their male population as they set off to Gympie in pursuit of their fortune.

Within months there were many thousands of people on the field - up to 15,000 - even more? Who can tell now? With the population settling down after a few years, the Gympie *census* population in 1871 was 4,473 and 4,564 in 1881. In the early stages, cooking and living arrangements were quite primitive. However it has been proven over and over that although living conditions anywhere may be harsh, man will adapt himself to his environment if the rewards are high enough.

Early mining on Nashville was all alluvial. In rocky crevasses, in bends of creeks and gullies, and in beds of silt deposited by flood waters, the miners panned for the gold in quantities previously undreamed of. Alluvial gold has sometimes been called 'poor man's gold.' Lying on or comparatively close to the surface in its pure or near pure form, it was usually associated with water-worn materials such as were found in many of Gympie's gullies.

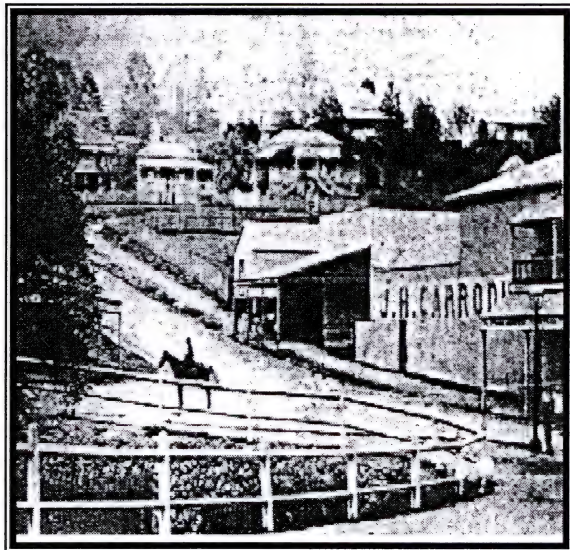
In 1867, a line of tents sprang up along Nash's Gully and in a number of nearby gullies. These were soon to be replaced by bark huts, slab humpies and stores. Before long, the line of buildings alongside the major gully became the winding Mary Street. This



was the original bullocky's trail, a track leading from Nash's Gully (today's Fiveways) up to Commissioner's Hill (today's Channon Street).



**Line of shanties along Nash's Gully.  
(A painting by Backler. January 1870 – from Calton Hill)**



**Looking up Calton Hill Road from the  
Fiveways – after a concrete dome had  
been built in the 1890's. (KW)**



**Gympie's Fiveways 1875**

The miner was a man of indomitable will. No doubt there were rogues on the Gympie field as at other fields. Nevertheless, the gold industry there and elsewhere could not have been carried on if the great majority of its participants had not been hardworking and honest.



## MARYBOROUGH

Maryborough to the north and further down the Mary River was the nearest settlement to Gympie. First settled in 1847, it is thus one of the oldest provincial cities in Queensland. The town was officially made a port in 1859 (Separation year) and became the administration centre of the Wide Bay Region. The port brought in supplies and took out wool, hides and tallow; the town wharves being around 30 kilometres from River Heads.

The news of Nash's gold discovery in 1867 electrified Maryborough. In next to no time, the town was virtually deserted as the inhabitants streamed south to find their fortune.

That discovery of gold a few days journey away, crippled the port-town for some time with the town's tradesmen, labourers, teachers, shop assistants and even sailors dashing to the goldfield to try their luck. Cottages in Maryborough were deserted. Many businesses came to a standstill with the incessant loading and moving of wagons, drays, carts and horse teams between the town and the goldfield. Maryborough was roughly 100 miles from the Gympie Creek diggings. Some Maryborough businesses of course did well from the gold find and opened a branch in Gympie.

We can assume that the route from Maryborough to the new field would very early have assumed an animated and noisy character. A straggling line of excited eager men with a few women, poured out to the scene of the action with the alluvial gold reportedly just waiting to be gathered. The same would apply to the bush tracks created from the south - from the capital city of Brisbane and from the settlement of Tewantin at the mouth of the Noosa River.

Within a few months of the announcement of the discovery of gold, stores and hotels, boarding houses and blacksmiths' shops, bakeries, churches and stables sprang into existence either in tents or slab buildings. Axemen, teamsters, farriers and blacksmiths came in considerable numbers, and policemen were appointed to the settlement. However, late in 1868, after most of the alluvial gold was found, the goldfield returned many Maryborough men to their homes, particularly those who had been ill-equipped or were just looking for easy money without hard labour.

Everywhere in Australia and at most times over the years, the man who was prepared to work could generally find employment. Generally, the man with a trade, and even with a small amount of capital, could start up a business to serve a mining community. In early Gympie, the blacksmith and the carpenter, the storekeeper and the hotel keeper, even the teacher, found work without difficulty.

There is not a great record of Gympie having a history of bushrangers. These were well documented in New South Wales and Victoria. There is a record in January 1869 of a hold-up just outside Gympie of an unescorted coach with seven passengers. Two bushrangers got away with the passengers' personal money and valuables but there was no gold on board. The men were later apprehended, one being the notorious local man called Palmer. At a later stage, James Nash commented - *"I have been to Kiandra and to Lambing Flat before coming to Gympie and I was definitely of the opinion that Gympie was by far the quietest place, especially considering the numbers there."*

Apart from for the export of timber, the purpose of the settlements of Tewantin and Noosa on the Noosa River had been to give diggers easier access to the Gympie goldfields. In 1870, a site was formally surveyed on the south bank of the river for the town of Tewantin.

With the influx of men from a few unprofitable mining ventures in Central Queensland, as well as from down south and from overseas, the mining town's population remained quite high for a considerable time. By February 1868, that is only five months



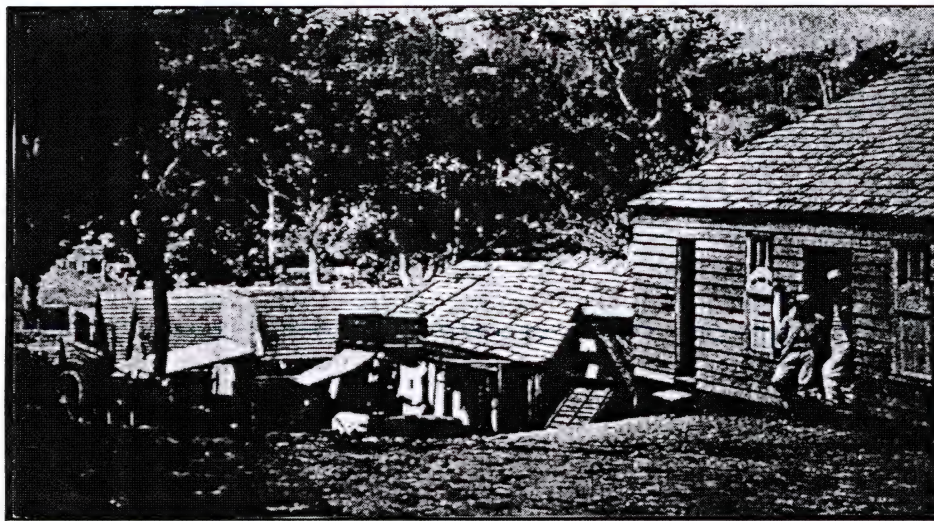
after the discovery was registered, 560 Business Licences and 15,000 Miner's Rights had been issued. A Miner's Right was the right to work for a certain period on a certain square of Crown land, say 40 feet square. A Miner's Right was also required in order to erect a building or to commence a business or to take up a Homestead Lease.

At Nashville, later called Gympie, thousands of men were scattered over the many creeks and valleys. The bush country which had been heavily timbered, as were all the gullies, would have been bustling with the activities of thriving miners, their equipment and their suppliers.

The sides of Nash's Gully in the heart of what is today's Gympie's Central Business District, had first to be cleared of trees. Stumps remained along 'the main street' for a long time, much to the concern of the horse- and bullock- wagoners who needed the street to load, unload and turn. Today, the winding Mary Street is living proof of an historic past with the original gullies later being filled in with mullock (waste rock) from the shafts, but the road was never straightened and the central business area was never shifted to a higher area.



Upper Mary Street businesses – c1868.  
(with trees still growing in Gympie's main Street)



A commercial scene – Upper Mary Street – c. 1868  
(Buildings on the left were destroyed in the 1881 fire) (KW)



The whole area was firstly crowded with canvas shelters in order to house the large number of people located in rather primitive conditions, living in tents after perhaps initially under a sheet of canvas thrown over a suitable branch. With each succeeding year, the shanty town was improved and rough bark shop buildings and shanties along what became Mary Street were progressively replaced by more substantial structures. The readily available timber throughout the district was eventually the fuel for the steam-driven machinery, such having been brought to the goldfield when mechanisation became necessary.



**Upper Mary Street. 1868 -only partly cleared of trees (HSG)**

The very first miners on the diggings in 1867 gave no thought to gold reefs, nor did they want the delay that reef mining meant. For a start, gold was available to be picked up at the places where it had been arrested in its downward course into creeks and gullies. Gold dust and the smaller nuggets were relatively easy to find with the aid of a dish or pan, or with a trough and cradle and at times, with a lot of muscle.



**A miner panning for alluvial gold**



**An early settler's hut**



**A mixture is put in the cradle which has a sieve on top. The cradle is then rocked.**



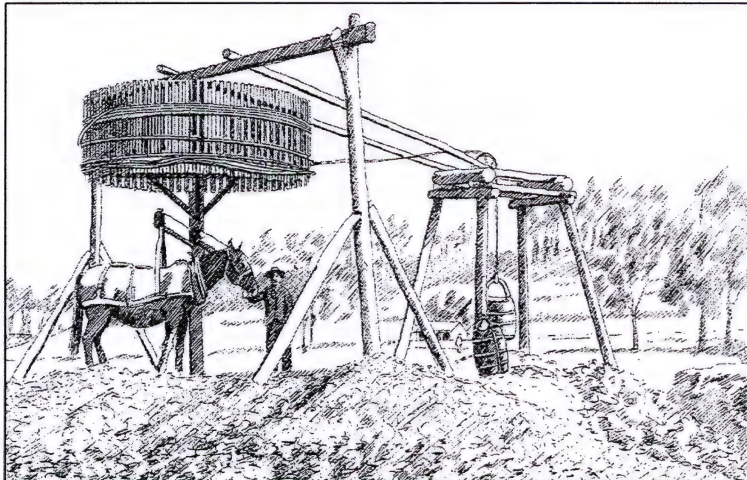
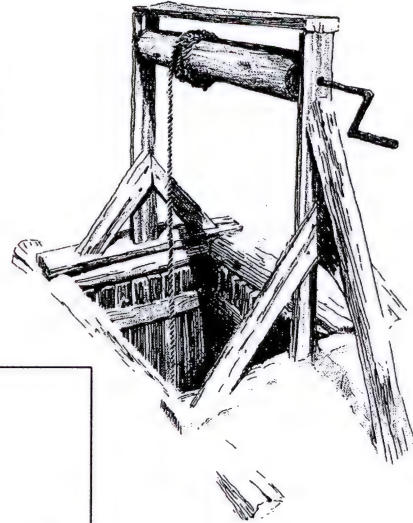
The records on gold production were the Government's gold escort returns. These show that in the first full year of 1868, 84,792 ounces were taken away by Government escort but this figure could be far below the actual production. Nobody could hazard a guess as to how many thousands of ounces were not reported, being taken away by the diggers themselves before or even after the gold escort commenced.

### REEF GOLD

With the sustained activity of thousands of diggers exhausting the alluvial or surface gold within a year, this form of mining was practically over. When gold was not easy to find, thousands of men who had been engaged in the alluvial work left Gympie. By 1872, more men were drifting away to the new gold strike at Charters Towers. Others left to try their fortune at the Palmer River field in Far North Queensland.

When the alluvial bubble burst, a short period of depression occurred. The alluvial miner with his pick and his strong arm could handle the surface gold, but it took more than that to wrest the yellow metal from the ore which was embedded deep down in the rock.

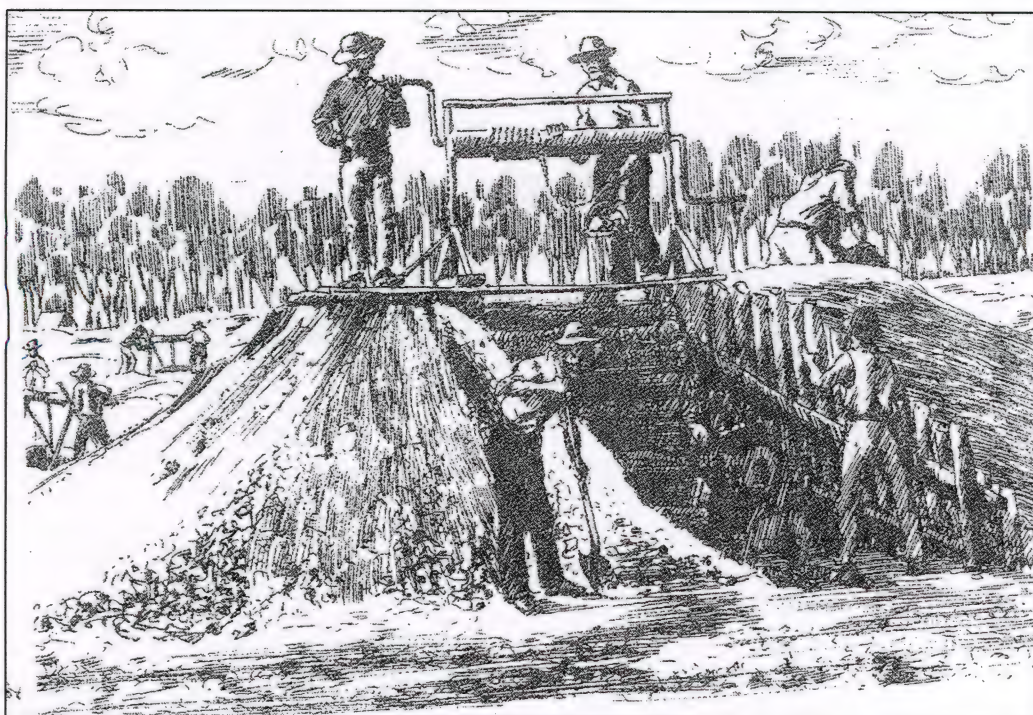
**Windlass over a square hole.**  
(Chinese Miners made round holes.) The top miner winds up a bucket containing a mixture of sand, gravel, rocks, mud and gold.



**A Whip – with a horse-powered windlass**

So at the end of 1868, a new and more stable form of mining emerged. It was found that wealth was available from the reefs which intersected the field – rivalling even the alluvial in value. The more astute diggers were quick to seek the source of the alluvial gold. Therefore it was not long after the initial big alluvial rush that the first gold-bearing outcrops were located and pegged out.





**A more sophisticated windless**

Reef gold was somewhat different from alluvial, with no place for the solitary miner. Team work was necessary to sink shafts and to install equipment. Shallow mines could be worked by a syndicate of two men with the aid of a windlass, but a larger number of miners were needed when the shafts were being sunk in search of the gold-bearing ore to a depth of some hundreds of metres. Within a few weeks, all the better known early reefs had been found, with the mines being operated by newly-formed companies and worked by paid employees instead of self-employed men.

Reef gold is generally found as streaks in quartz rock. Some of these earliest reefs were on the slopes of Caledonian Hill above Nash's Gully. Other reefs were under today's Fiveways, others up under today's Civic Centre area. Three other main areas were brought into production. These were The Monkland, Nashville (The One Mile), also Red Hill, while smaller sites were opened at Cootharaba Hill and at The Two Mile. The first two named were of greatest prominence as gold producers, their sites being sensational for gold production. Monkland virtually became a separate township, having its own Post Office, Police Station, Churches and stores.

As an example of value, the No. 2 Great South Eastern Mine, site of today's Gympie Historical Museum at Monkland, produced 320,000 *ounces* of gold in its 30 years of operation from 1887 to 1917. It is hard to imagine such a volume from just one mine, and that was not the field's richest mine although it was one of the best.

The field's best producer was the Scottish Gympie Mine with a production of 18,773 *kilograms* of gold before closing in 1924. The Scottish Gympie's Retort House is today the only original building left from Gympie's early mining days. Situated off Brisbane Road opposite the Monkland Museum, the historic Retort House is a Heritage Listed (i.e. protected) building. Various plans have been put forward to preserve this valuable site.



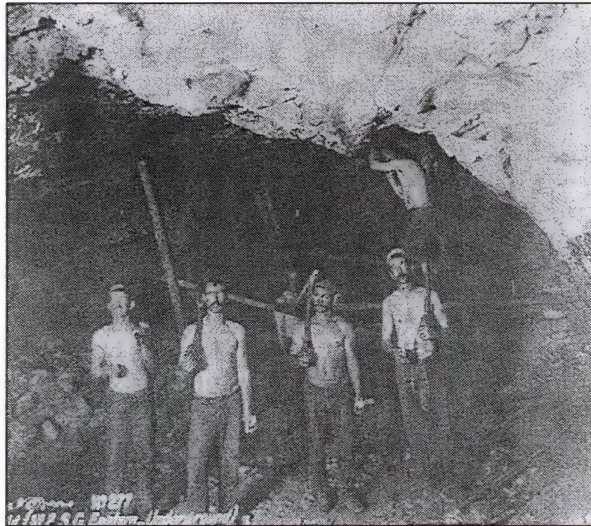
Reef gold was of course difficult to work - breaking out the rock, crushing it, and extracting for gold. It was backbreaking work and time was consumed in sinking shafts. This could be dangerous even with part of the shaft being timbered. Then the miner had to work hard to get his gold out of the rock whatever method he used - whether it was with the simple Gympie Hammer or the mortar and pestle, that is the iron dolly and dolly pot.

The Gympie miners were fortunate that water from the Mary River, and from time to time from her creeks, was reasonably close to the diggings. This was not the position at many other Australian gold fields. At Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie in Western Australia, water, albeit dirty water, cost the diggers 20 pence for a gallon when wages were under 100 pence (50 cents) a week. In other words, less than five litres of water might cost half of a man's weekly earnings. Eventually water was piped to those centres from the Mundaring Weir. That unique "Goldfields Water Supply Scheme" has remained the world's longest freshwater pipeline. It was completed in 1903 with eight steam powered pumping stations ensuring



### Underground mining

the water reached its destination. That stark and bold pipeline stretched for 560km across Western Australia's arid and thirsty lands.

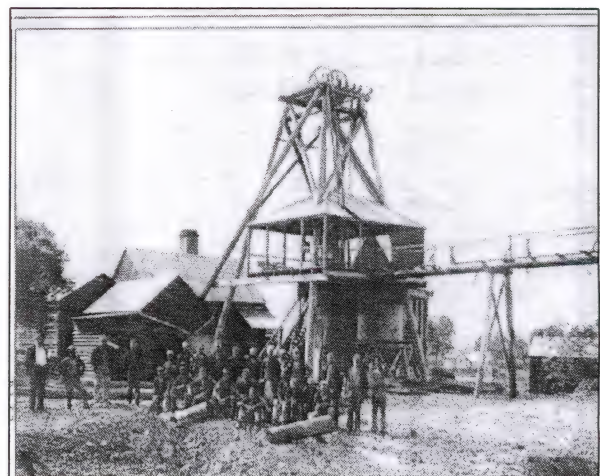


### Underground at the No. 2 South Great Eastern Mine

(72 km) on waterless roads. Along his journey across the continent, Whitmore lost or sold most of his animals and ended up on the West Australian diggings with two horses and a dray.

Before machinery could be used on the Gympie field, a lot of timber was necessary to construct poppet heads, gantries, engine rooms and so on. As well, timber was needed to shore up the maze of drives and tunnels underground. Those headframes-poppet

In the 1890s, Gympie's Thomas Whitmore from Pie Creek made a memorable trip to the Western Australian Goldfields. This was subsequently reported at length in The Gympie Times. Whitmore led a horse team and two bullock teams. On this epic journey he was at times blocked by drought conditions followed by floods in the Diamantina region. Later at one place on the Nullarbor, he travelled for 120 miles



### No. 2 North Victory Mine (KW)

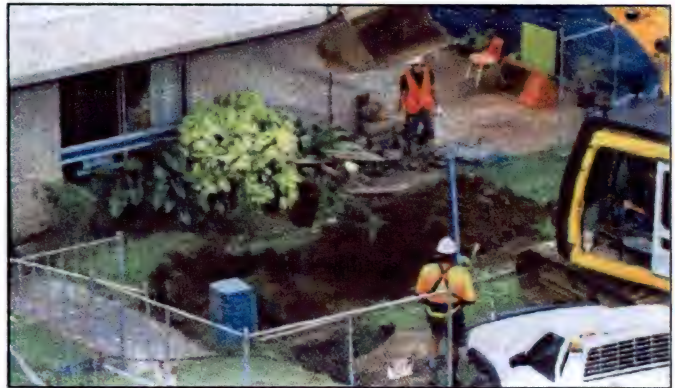


heads characterised the mining landscape of Gympie for many decades. In due course, steam driven batteries or stampers, with local timber for fuel, made life much easier in pulverising the ore; but for 10 years or more, there was plenty of work for the timber-getters and carriers. It was not until 1881 that Gympie was connected to Maryborough by rail. Coal could then be brought from the mine at Howard north of Maryborough.

The amount of gold taken from Gympie is phenomenal. Official records show that between 1868 and 1927, over four million ounces of gold were produced from Gympie's mining operations. While there were widespread fluctuations from year to year, the years 1901 to 1906 were recognised as consistently the highest producing years. Peak years in ounces were – 140,000 in 1902, 176,000 in 1903 and 153,000 in 1904. Certain company names live long in memory, for example – the Scottish, the No. 2 Great South Eastern, the Glanmire, the Smithfield and the Phoenix.

Little evidence remains today of the thousands of shafts which were sunk across a *large area* - from The Chatsworth in the north, out to Veteran and over to The Monkland, then across the river to the South Side (sic) at The Dawn. In the old days, when work in a mine shaft ended, the common method of closing its mouth was to cover it with logs then sand and stone. Years later of course, the shafts caved in as the timber aged.

A State Government's shaft-capping scheme commenced in 1991, when it was believed that over 700 mines had to be made safe. From Geologist Benjamin Dunstan's 1910 Geographical Survey Map, the Government was aware of 1500 shafts on the Gympie goldfield. However not all mines had been mapped and even the drives into mines were caving in. The shaft-capping work continues into the 21<sup>st</sup>



**Old Shaft – Bligh Street 2008**

century. One example of an unmapped shaft is this. In March 2008, an old shaft was located in front of a house in Bligh Street. Half of the front garden had sunk resulting in a hole three metres wide and deep. With the Gympie Fire Station located almost directly opposite, Emergency Services personnel were called quickly to erect barriers. Within a few days, the hole was cleared and covered with reinforced concrete

## **GYMPIE'S FIRST 20 YEARS**

As we have seen, the first habitations were tents or just sheets of canvas. Progressively, these were changed to bark, slab and timber huts. Eventually, there were small weatherboard cottages of three or four rooms for the miners and laborers. Then the mine managers and the wealthier businessmen built their substantial 'Queenslander' style homes. A number of these beautiful residences still exist today – 100 and more years on.

In the late 1880s, businessman Bill Shambler and his wife Ellen built a lovely home in Randall Street. Today it is No. 3. Later they moved to another large home 'Netley,' now No. 85 Channon Street at the corner with Lawrence Street. (In 1924, The Gympie Times recorded that Bill Shambler was buried from his home in Horseshoe Bend. That street originally commenced at Louisa Street and was later in part renamed.)

In Gympie's earliest times, entertainment had to be self-made, with community singing, music halls, theatres, pianos, fiddles, vaudeville shows, brass bands and concerts



and dance halls – especially on Saturday nights, with many settlers keeping Sunday as a worship day.

With the gold rush commencing late in 1867, it was as soon as the following year that Entrepreneur Billy Barlow built his Music Hall in a central position on the goldfields on the street now called Apollonian Vale. This was subsequently to become the Apollonian Hotel which historic building was shifted to Boreen Point in 1986 to be used as a hotel again. Himself a talented entertainer, Billy Barlow for many years was responsible for numerous popular vaudeville shows at his establishment.

Another of the many entertainers who came to Gympie was Harry Clay and his travelling Vaudeville and Comedy Company. Clay and his team visited the goldfield at least once every year between 1901 and 1918. Starting at Toowoomba after a short leg in New South Wales, the team played at Ipswich then Gympie. After that, they performed at Maryborough before catching a steamer (from either Maryborough or Bundaberg) to northern towns, travelling as far as Charters Towers which was then another thriving gold town. The company again performed on their way back south. Overall, Harry Clay and his troupe were on the road between four and six months each year.

## CHINESE MINERS

As with other goldfields in Australia, there were Chinese seeking gold at Gympie, arriving very soon after the news of the gold find was known. In the main, the Chinese miner at Gympie was law abiding, hardworking and efficient. He had the patience to work over old shafts, tailings and mullock heaps that others would not concern themselves with and he was happy to work long hours. He lived frugally and before long, as miners moved

away to other fields, the Chinese men moved in to work over the ground a second time. One writer has stated that history shows that Gympie appeared to be the only goldfield in Australia where in the main the Orientals were treated as human beings.

Even before the alluvial rush petered out, many of these Chinese men went into such useful pursuits as laundrymen, merchants and market gardeners.

From the earliest days, the Chinese people provided the town with fresh fruit and vegetables from their gardens. One such garden was where what is now called The Willows Park at the town end of Cootharaba Road down from the Gympie State High School. The crops could be irrigated from the nearby



**Working through “rejected rock” on a mullock heap**

creek. Another Chinese market garden was where today’s Albert Park Sports Complex is alongside the Bruce Highway. There were many Chinese men around the district who had their own irrigation systems which raised water for example out of the Mary River or a little further out, from Eel Creek beyond the South Side

Yet another market garden was at the corner of today’s Crescent Road and Shanks Street. This is marked on an old 1881 map as ‘Pring’s Garden’ and was below the Pring family’s residence.





**“The Willows”, corner Crescent and Cootharaba Roads – a one time Chinese market garden**

worshippers would still have been miners. Most would have been involved in other pursuits.

The following map was prepared in 1881 to show various mining leases. The train line was opened in 1891.

The 1914 Valuation Register of the City of Gympie shows R.L. Pring as the Owner and Chow Lam as the Occupier. By law in those days, ‘Orientals’ were not allowed to have the title to land. In June 1884, the Directors of the Crown & Phoenix Mine applied to the Gympie Mining Warden for resumption of ‘*portion of R.L. Pring’s market garden area*’ because it was near their shaft.

In the records of the Surface Hill Wesleyan Methodist Church on Channon Street, there is mention in 1904 of the Rev. Henry Youngman addressing 40 to 50 Chinese members of his congregation in Mandarin - their own language. Youngman had earlier served as a missionary in China, Perhaps by that time few of his Chinese

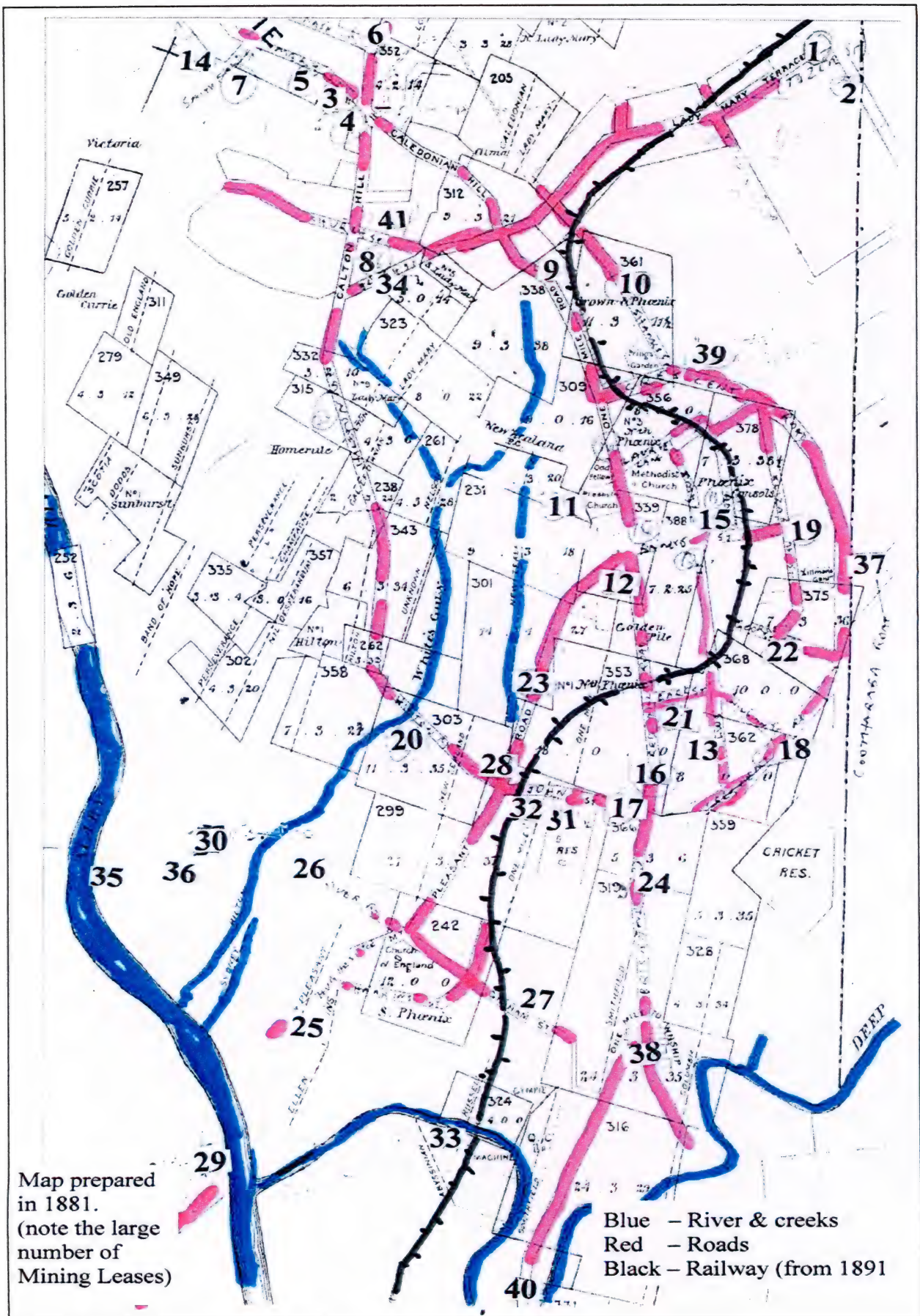


**Albert Park 2008 –once a Chinese market garden irrigated from the Mary River**

#### **Today’s names**

- |                      |                               |   |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Tozer Street      | 14. Nash’s Gully Ann Street   | 27. Normanby Bridge Centro Shopping Centre  |
| 2. Tozer Park Road   | 15. Red Hill Road John Street | 28. One Mile State School                   |
| 3. Fiveways          | 16. Crescent Road             | 29. Council’s Works Depot Deep Creek Bridge |
| 4. Nash’s Gully      | 17. Elizabeth Street          | 30. St Patrick’s                            |
| 5. Mary Street       | 18. Hilton Road               | 31. Mary River                              |
| 6. Nash Street       | 19. Earl Street               | 32. Cootharaba Road                         |
| 7. Smithfield Street | 20. George Street             | 33. One Mile Township                       |
| 8. Bligh Street      | 21. Mt Pleasant Road          | 34. Pring’s Garden                          |
| 9. Apollonian Vale   | 22. Brisbane Road             | 35. Pengelly Bridge                         |
| 10. Shanks Street    | 23. Hughes Terrace            | 36. Church Street                           |
| 11. Uniting Church   | 24. River Road                |   |
| 12. Phoenix Hotel    | 25. Graham Street             |   |
| 13. Smyth Street     | 26. Mt Pleasant Hotel         |   |









**Replica Head Frame and Gantry built in 1970  
(with the mullock heap at right).  
Gympie Museum, Monkland**

into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the town of Gympie was famous for its numerous mullock heaps which over the years, were removed and crushed for road surfacing etc.



**Head Frame and Gantry with old  
Crusher in foreground- Museum,  
Monkland.**

Gympie ceased.

In 1976, Historical Society members transported the winding engine back to Gympie, piece by piece. It had been used for a half century at the Rhondda Colliery at Ipswich. The Museum also uses a Cornish boiler which in 1904 was also a product of Walkers of Maryborough. The Museum's restored winding engine and boiler are fully maintained in working order to allow their operation at special times during the year.

In 1963, a number of historically minded citizens formed the Gympie and District Historical Society. By 1970, they had erected a near replica of the original poppet head above the site of the No. 2 South Great Eastern Mine. A headframe is the structure built to support the cages and winding gear over a deep mine shaft.

The Museum's 'mullock heap' had to be acquired from the Council's quarry several kilometres away, there then being no true mullock readily available.

For many years, even well

The original shaft below the reconstructed No. 2 South Great Eastern headframe and gantry at the Museum went down 600 metres. The huge steam-driven winding engine which the Historical Society operates today was built in 1899 by Walkers Limited of Maryborough, it being originally used on the Gympie site. It had been taken to Ipswich in the 1920s when mining in



1897

H.A.O.B. SOCIETY'S  
**SPORTS.**

ST. PATRICK'S DAY,  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17.

ONE-MILE RECREATION GROUND.

SEVENTEENTH  
**Annual Demonstration!**

JUDGES:  
J. O'Connor, Sonr., M. L. Lavin, T. Clarke

HANDICAPERS:  
T. H. Cullinane, J. McNamara, P. Hourigan  
STANDER: Tom McDonald.  
TREASURER: J. J. Hurley.

PROGRAMME:

1. MAIDEN RACE, 130 yards.—First prize, 20s; second, 10s. Entrance, 2s.
2. 17TH ANNUAL GRAND HANDICAP, 130 yards.—125s. First prize, £20; second, £4; third, £1. Nomination, 7s 6d; acceptance, 2s 6d.
3. 100 YARDS HANDICAP.—27. First prize, £5; second, £2. Nomination, 3s; acceptance, 2s.
4. MEMBERS' RACE (handicap), 100 yards.—First prize, gold medal, (presented by Rev. J. O'Reilly); second, £1; third, 10s. Nomination, 2s; acceptance, 1s.
5. ONE-MILE HANDICAP.—First prize, £9; second, £2; third, £1. Nomination, 5s; acceptance, 2s.
6. HALF-MILE HANDICAP.—First prize, £7; second, £2; third, £1. Nomination, 5s; acceptance, 2s.
7. ST. PATRICK'S HANDICAP, 220 yards.—First prize, £4; second, £2; third, £1. Nomination, 5s; acceptance, 2s.
8. MEMBERS' BOYS' RACE (under 14 years), 100 yards.—First prize, 15s; second, 7s 6d; third, 2s 6d. Entrance, 6d.
9. BICYCLE RACE, 2 miles.—First prize, £3; second, £2. Nomination, 5s; acceptance, 2s.
10. BOYS' RACE (under 14 years), 100 yards.—First prize, 15s; second, 7s 6d; third, 2s 6d. Entrance, 6d.
11. HOY, WRECH, AND JUMP.—First prize, £1 10s; second, 10s. Entrance, 2s.
12. IRISH RING AND JIG.—First prize, £1 10s; second, 10s. Entrance, 2s 6d.
13. SACK RACE.—First prize, £1; second, 10s. Entrance, 2s.
14. OLD MAN'S HANDICAP, 75 yards (50 years and over).—First prize, £1; second, 10s. Entrance, 1s.

This programme is subject to alteration.  
Nominations for all handicaps to close on February 20, 1897.

RULES.

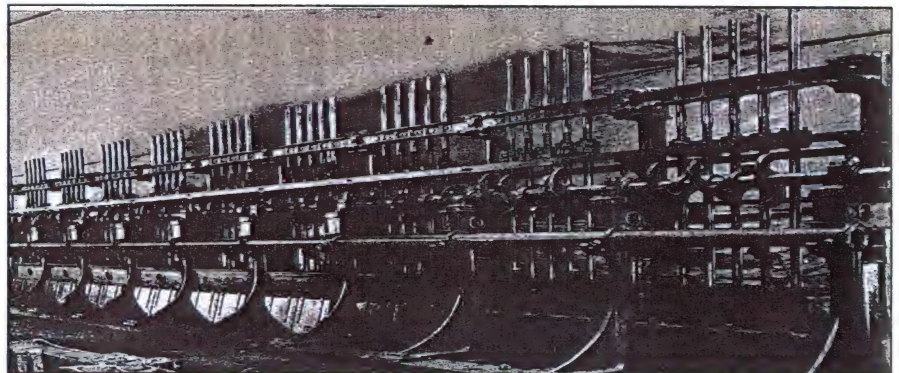
The Judges' decision is final.  
All events to start by pistol.  
Three competitors or no prize awarded.  
In all events there must be three competitors to claim three prizes, or three to claim two.  
Any competitor going over the mark before the pistol is fired will be put back one yard for the first offence, two yards for the second, and the third time disqualified.  
Any one lodging an objection against a competitor for wrong nomination or fraudulent entry must do so to the Committee within ten minutes after the first round is run, after which time no protest as to wrong nomination or performances will be entertained. Persons making such objections must deposit the sum of two pounds ten shillings (£2 10s) in the hands of the Committee, and should the objection not be sustained to their satisfaction the money shall be forfeited and go towards paying expenses.  
Optional with the Handicappers to handicap in all events if they deem it necessary.  
Athletes not dressed to the satisfaction of the Judges will be disqualified.  
No person to be allowed inside the ring except Committee and Competitors.

**On WEDNESDAY NIGHT,**  
MARCH 17TH, THE  
**Grand Ball and Supper**  
WILL BE HELD IN THE  
HIBERNIAN HALL, RED HILL.  
ADMISSION—Single, 7s 6d; Double, 12s 6d (to admit lady and gentleman).  
ENTERTAINERS—Messrs. FLY AND GARNER.

**St Patrick's Sports Day  
and Ball - 1897**



**Cornish Boiler at the Gympie Museum  
— built by Walkers Ltd in 1904**



**A Gympie stamping battery - late 18<sup>th</sup> C. (GL)**

Apart from this Mining and Historical Museum on the Brisbane side of Gympie, there is the Woodworks Museum on the northern outskirts. This was established in 1984 as a branch of the Queensland Museum, being next to the Queensland Government's Forestry Complex. It tells the story of the region's timber history, featuring woodworking tools and timber cutting techniques used long before the chain-saw took over.



**Steam driven Winding Engine at the Gympie Museum – Walkers Ltd 1899**



## FRIENDLY SOCIETY LODGES

The first Friendly Society Lodges in Gympie were established in 1868 – the Oddfellows (MUIOOF) and the Hibernians (HACBS). Even before 1870, the Hibernians had formed Gympie's first brass band. They were soon followed by the Oddfellows with their Lodge band.

The first Hibernian Hall, where their band practices were held, was built on Red Hill in the early 1870s. That was of course, within a year or two of the establishment of the mining town, indicating the early miners' interest in music and in entertainment. Gympie's first Band Hall (the Hibernian) was constructed of saplings and palings and was sited on today's Red Hill Road just south of today's train crossing. By 1881, at least four other Lodges were operating with many Lodges forming their own band.

Every New Year's Day, the Oddfellows held a sports meeting, the major event being foot-running whereas St Patrick's Day was obviously the Hibernians' special day for a procession and a picnic followed by a Grand Ball. The 1897 program for the Oddfellows' Lodge included among the standard races - a One Mile Handicap, a Sack Race, also an Old Man's Handicap (50 years and over). Processions were usually marshalled on Commissioner's Hill near the Lands Office in Channon Street. They then proceeded to a paddock off Pound Hill at The Monkland, and later to the One Mile Sports Ground.

Participants in Lodge processions always wore their colourful regalia with many decorating their vehicles. In the early decades, the vehicles were of course horse-drawn. Often a procession could be up to a mile long.

The Shop Assistants' Procession and Carnival was another big annual celebration; for example in 1909, the ninth Annual Carnival was organized at the One Mile Grounds for male and female shop assistants. The business houses consented to close, including the Post Office. A procession commenced from the Post Office with "*many quaint figures and grotesque vehicles drawn by bony crocks and in one case, a bullock.*" (Gympie Times report).

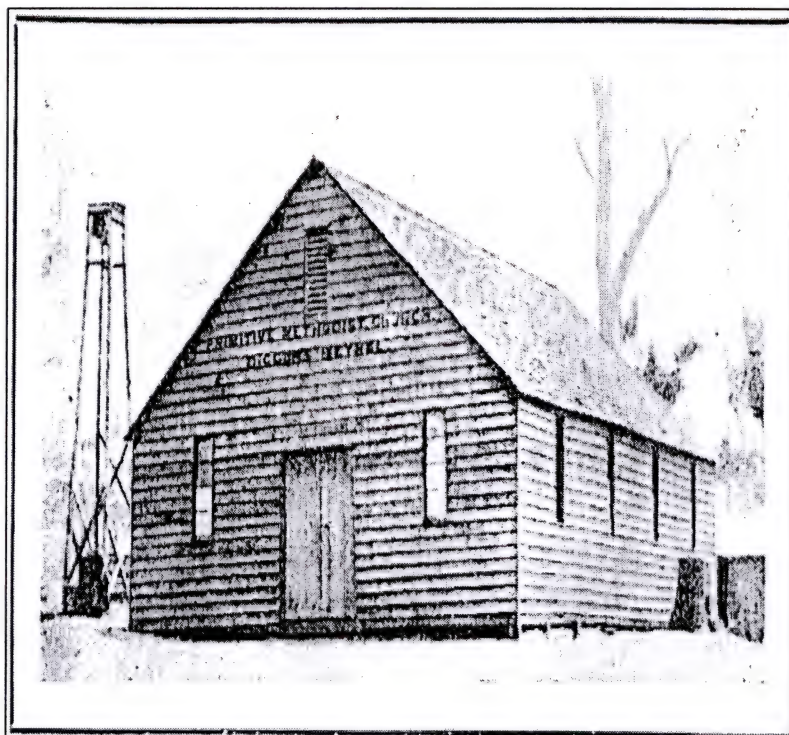


## CHURCHES

A simple weather-board building called the 'Diggers Bethel' and seating about 200, was opened in February 1868 by the people of the Primitive Methodist Church. It served for a short time for worshippers of all faiths. It stood in Nash Street near the rear of the original Northumberland Hotel, which latter building was later destroyed by fire. The replacement hotel is to be revamped into an administration centre for the Gympie Regional Council.

It is obvious that Gympie pioneers *saw the need to develop spiritual claims as well as material claims*. As well as being hard-working people, a lot of those pioneer folk of Gympie - men and women - were God-fearing so they set about erecting their own churches. The further rapid growth of religious institutions in the 1880s and the 1890s came about as a result of the continuing prosperity of the goldfields.

Early in 1868, that is within months of the establishment of the gold field, the Nashville Times newspaper made mention of the following churches in Gympie - *the Primitive*



**Diggers Bethel - opened 16<sup>th</sup> February, 1868**

*Methodist Church, the Roman Catholic Church, the Wesleyan Church, and a Presbyterian Church, with a Church of England in course of erection, and a proposed Congregational Church.*

The first marriage on the Gympie Creek Goldfield was celebrated as early as December 1867. The Rev. William Dodson married John Hulyer and Flora Lama. John Hulyer was the goldfield's first butcher. Records show that he set up his bower shelter within five days of the arrival of the crowds of men from Maryborough. There was a great demand for meat, and the men had money. Livestock was readily available from neighbouring stations with cattle and sheep being *killed on the spot at Hulyer's back door* and sold immediately from the front of the rough 'shop' building.

This Baptist clergyman Rev. Dodson was based in Maryborough and did a lot of pioneering work in that area and towards Gympie. He was known as a remarkable man. Another Baptist clergyman named Rev. A.G. Weller lived in Gympie for a period about 1888. That was the first continuing activity of the Baptist Church on the goldfield. However, the work faltered but was recommenced in 1897.

A Roman Catholic Mass in Gympie was first celebrated in a tent only a short time after the discovery of gold, although another record shows that the first Catholic Mass was celebrated early in 1868 in the Brisbane Hotel. The celebrant was a visiting Maryborough priest. Soon after that, Bishop Quinn sent his nephew, Rev. Fr. Horan, to the cosmopolitan and mushrooming town, knowing him to be *prudent, zealous and efficient*.



Fr. Horan arrived in March 1868 and went on to serve the Gympie community for 55 years.



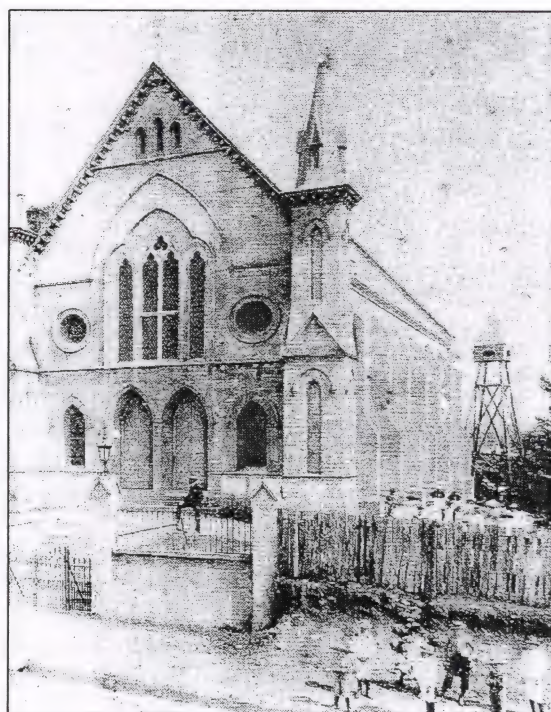
**Second Roman Catholic Church (GL)**

The first Roman Catholic building was constructed of bark and the second was of wood. In 1904, the Christian Brothers opened a school for boys in that original wooden church building. Today's very substantial St Patrick's Church on Calton Hill was built in 1885 and was opened free of debt. Most of the sandstone came from an area at Eel Creek. Today, the beautiful St Patrick's is a Heritage Listed building, of great historical significance.

Before departing from the Diggers Bethel building as their worship place, the Primitive Methodist people built their own church on Red Hill Road on the site of today's Band Hall. (The two Methodist groups – the Primitive Methodists and the Wesleyan Methodists – amalgamated in 1898, and became part of the new Uniting Church in Australia in 1977.)

Celebrations were held on 4 July 1990 to commemorate 100 years since the official opening in 1890 of the third church building – the Surface Hill Methodist Church, now the Channon Street Uniting Church.

This cement-rendered brick building is yet another historic (Heritage Listed) building, but work on the first church, built with bark, was commenced late in 1868. It is recorded that bark was purchased from aborigines for five shillings (50 cents) per 100 sheets after having been stripped from the neighbouring



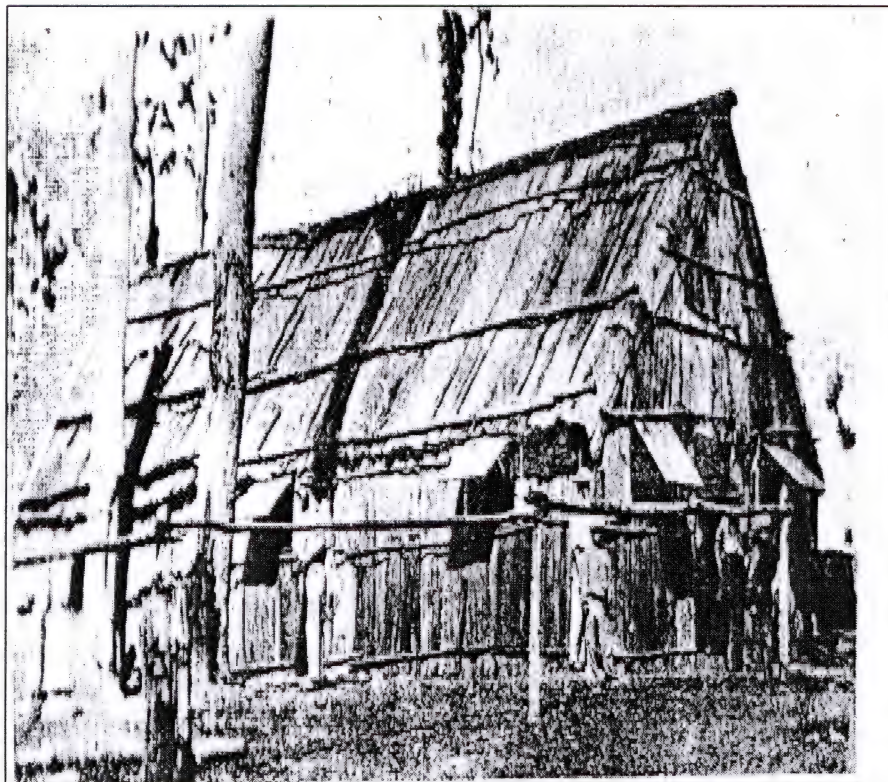
**Third Surface Hill Methodist Church – opened 1890. (Note the bell-tower and wooden fence.) (GL)**



forest. This humble building was asked for by miners - mostly from Victoria, and was sited about where today's Kingston House Restaurant now stands. (Channon Street did not exist at that stage.) A report about the opening of the bark church on Surface Hill mentions a Mr Richard Pring as a preacher. He was a great-grandfather of the present author. (See later regarding the 'Pring family' and their link to the Shamblers.)

A second (wooden) church building was opened on 4 July 1869 facing Reef Street. It was moved in 1937 to its present position facing Barter Street in order to make room for the large Wesley Hall which was built later on the corner of Reef and Channon Streets.

The 1869 building still stands today, being another Gympie Heritage Listed building, and generally recognized as the oldest building in Gympie still maintained in good condition. On an inside wall, there remains the original sign reading '*Surface Hill Methodist Sabbath School - 1869.*' There were celebrations in 1999, 130 years after its opening, to commemorate the official opening of this church.



**Temporary Methodist Church on Surface Hill – (built in 1868  
with slab walls and bark roof)**

Today's building - the 'new' 1890 church in Channon Street - also has a long connection with the Shambler families. In 1911, the Gympie Times reported that Mr Shambler was Treasurer of the Trust and a Miss Shambler was one of the Sunday School teachers.

In 1868, Scottish Presbyterian miners in Gympie invited a fellow Highlander to preach to the diggers. A weatherboard building was erected to accommodate 200 people. The Rev. Mackay was required to lodge at a rear corner of the church, no other accommodation being available for him.

Later, other Presbyterian clergy served the church on a temporary basis. One was the Rev. Caldwell, who was appointed in March 1870. Records show that *regrettably on one*



*of his pastoral visits, he was caught in a heavy thunderstorm. The wetting induced an illness ending in his death in May 1871.*

The Rev. A. Crawford followed Mr Caldwell, arriving late in 1871, and remaining for four years. Rev. N.S. Humphreys was next. *He was a very active and consistent visitor. His stout rotund figure with ruddy face and snow white hair was a familiar sight all over the field.* In 1873, a new church was built, the architect being the highly regarded Hugo du Rietz.

Among the historic relics of the Uniting Church on Red Hill Road (previously St. Andrews Presbyterian Church) is Andrew Fisher's personal Bible. Fisher was the Gympie miner who became a Prime Minister of Australia. He had been the first Superintendent of the Monkland Presbyterian Sunday School. As stated earlier, Monkland in its earliest days was quite a separate township from Gympie.

Anglican Church records show that a Church of England was opened early in 1869, the small building of slabs and bark being erected on Palatine Hill, up from today's Fiveways. Another building known as St Andrew's was soon opened on Mount Pleasant. In 1888, the denomination moved from Palatine Hill to Lady Mary Terrace. Alongside today's St Peter's Hall on that hilltop terrace, is one of scores of old mine vents that today can be found around the city.

The first Salvation Army meeting was held in October 1886 in an empty shop in Mary Street under the leadership of Captain David Buckingham. Their first barracks/church building was where the Crazy Prices store is today. With the gold town being over-supplied with hotels and drinking problems, the first Salvation Army Captains found Gympie to be a rewarding field in which to work. Written reports state that *as in many places, heckling and abuse were followed by actual violence.* Another report said that *the initial meetings were marred by verbal and physical violence.*

Almost 50 years after the start of Gympie, Pugh's Almanac of 1914 listed the following churches, the brackets indicating the number of clergy:

<i>Roman Catholic (2)</i>	<i>Disciples of Christ (-)</i>
<i>Church of England (2)</i>	<i>Welsh Church (-)</i>
<i>Methodist (2)</i>	<i>Plymouth Brethren (-)</i>
<i>Presbyterian (1)</i>	<i>Congregational (-)</i>
<i>Baptist (-)</i>	<i>Salvation Army (-)</i>

## EARLY TRANSPORT

Back in 1843, Land Commissioner Dr Simpson had blazed a trail from the Moreton Bay Settlement along the Stanley River, across the range and down the Mary River to near its mouth where Maryborough was established. This track became a mailman's route, servicing the cattle stations which had been selected. However, this track was of no use to the men seeking gold in Gympie.

Nothing travelled faster in the 1850s and the 1860s than news of gold, but actual travel was still very slow. At the beginning, the principal disability suffered by Gympie's new and rapidly expanding community was lack of transport. When news of the Gympie gold got abroad, men and women had to walk firstly through the scrub from Maryborough or from Tewantin. Within a few days/weeks of the gold strike, crude roads/tracks from the coast had amazingly been hacked out through the native scrub around trees and through gullies. However horse-wagons and bullock-wagons required a considerable amount of clearing because of their length.

We could look back a little to those early years. Many first arrivals on the goldfield carried their worldly possessions on their back. Happy was the man who owned a



wheelbarrow to push to Gympie from the port, and the man with a horse was indeed fortunate. Settlements were progressively established north and south of Gympie. The small townships which previously existed received an impetus for development from Gympie's fluctuating population and the flow of men backwards and forwards.

As more shops were opened for the goldfield's increasing population, the need for a reliable transport for a widening variety of goods became apparent. Bullock wagons and horse teams were necessary to bring supplies to the field, such as food and drink, tents, blankets, and mining tools. That, of course, was slow travel as bullock teams generally travelled only eight or nine miles (12 kilometres) in a day although horse teams could move at twice that speed.

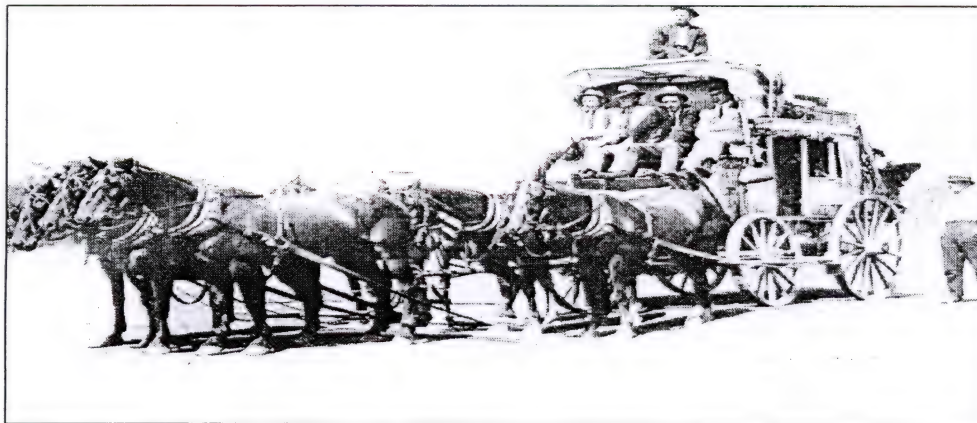
On 17 February 1868, coaches commenced their three days a week service between Gympie and Maryborough. An early advertisement in 'The Nashville & Mary River Mining Gazette' indicated that *Wednesday's and Friday's coaches arrive in Maryborough from Nashville in time to meet both the Steamers for Brisbane*. That coach trip from Maryborough would take a whole day from 6am to 6pm – just an hour by car today.

It was not long before other coach services were commenced. Freeman Cobb, an American, had arrived in Australia in 1853 to set up his stagecoach company in Victoria. In due course, his Cobb & Co. also served the mining town of Gympie very well. The company's first coach service from Brisbane to Gympie was on 12-13 November 1868 just a year after the start of the settlement. Hiram Barnes was the driver of that first coach. Later he became a legendary Cobb & Co. driver. A trip by coach to Brisbane would then last for two days – today less than 200 kilometres by road and about two hours. A start by coach at 6am on one day, to or from Brisbane, concluded at 6pm the following day.

The route came north over the notorious 'Sandy Pinch' between today's Mooloolah and Eudlo. There were many steep patches over those ranges and when the track followed a ridge having topped the rise, the horses needed to be changed. Some rises meant that passengers had to alight and walk and, even in some instances, to carry their baggage. Near today's Yandina, six horses were put in for a stretch of hill-climbing.

In 1871, the British novelist Anthony Trollope (1815-1882) travelled on the Brisbane to Gympie coach. Here is a small part of what he wrote of his trip. *There is often no road and the coach is taken at random through the forest. Not infrequently, a fallen tree blocks the path.....the great miracles are the sudden pinches looking as though they were perpendicular, down which the coach is taken, and then the equally sharp ascents.....*

The halfway overnight stop from Brisbane was at Cobb's Camp on the crest of a hill. Cobb & Co. originally erected change stables at this Staging Camp No. 476 or Middle



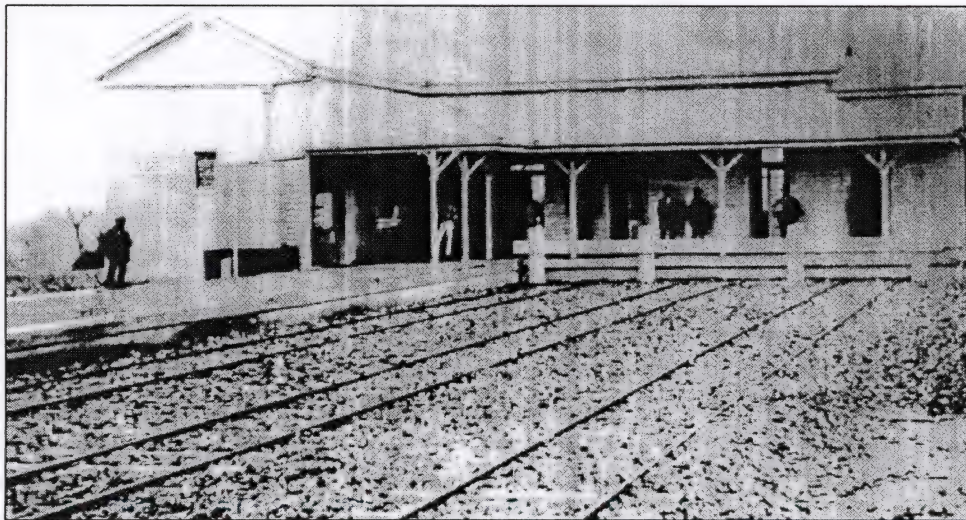
Typical Cobb & Co. coach – Western Qld c. 1920s



Camp. In doing so, the company made the foundation for the town of Woombye. Before long, bed and breakfast facilities were being made available. That town came into existence solely for the purpose of catering for the requirements of travellers along the Gympie road. The settlement developed quickly and by July 1870, James Costar was granted a Publican's License for his 'Nil Desperandum Hotel' at Cobb's Camp.

Cobb & Co. had a number of other routes around Gympie. Between 1882 and 1884, their Gympie to Noosa coach left Gympie on Sundays and Thursdays to order to meet the steamer '*Culgoa*' – a paddle steamer of 63 tons. The '*Culgoa*' carried passengers as well as general cargo and sawn timber. Even with somewhat improved coach services, many folk found that steamship was a far more leisurely form of travel. One timetable shows a Brisbane departure date for the '*Culgoa*' on Saturday 7 November 1868 at 6am, with an arrival at Noosa at 5pm on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>, a total of 35 hours.

In 1881, 14 years after the establishment of the settlement of Gympie, the town was connected to Maryborough by rail and then to Brisbane 10 years later. A lot of 'politics' had been involved in the early decision as to which centre Gympie should be connected – either with Brisbane or with Maryborough. The north coast line from Brisbane had ended at Caboolture but Maryborough Port interests ultimately won, the Gympie train terminus building being erected right across the tracks, there being no plans for the Maryborough line to go beyond Gympie.



**Gympie Railway Station - 1881, showing the building sited across the end of the Maryborough-Gympie line. (GL)**

In 1891, that later extension of the Maryborough to Gympie rail line on to Brisbane saw the death knell of a lot of the major coach services but we must not think of those 'roads' as we think of roads today. Sealed roads were unheard of until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, inter-town roads in the late 1800s being what we today call rough bush tracks. A train ride was far more comfortable and also much faster than travel by coach.

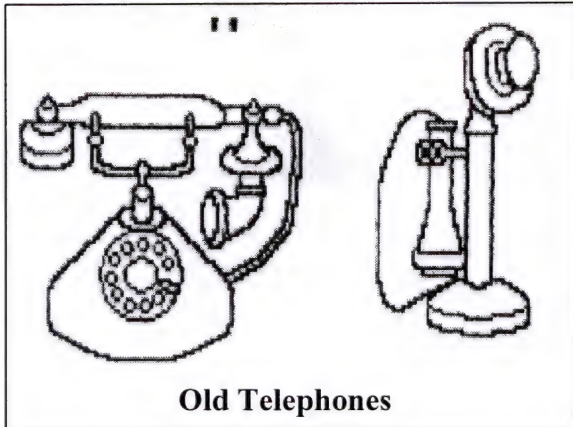
The Gympie Census population in 1891 was 8449. This then is background to the setting up in Gympie of many small businesses and big stores like Shamblers and Holloways and Cullinanes. Today we would call these large department stores.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

A Post Office in Gympie was opened before the end of 1867, the Postmaster's annual salary being 12 pounds (\$24) a year. The first telegraph line to Gympie from Maryborough was built in 1868, the original Brisbane to Maryborough telegraph line of



1865 having been via Toowoomba, Dalby and Hawkwood (near Gayndah), that is, through part of the Darling Downs and today's South Burnett District.



**Old Telephones**

A new Post Office building was erected in 1878 near the top of Mary Street, on the corner of Channon and Duke Streets. The building still exists, yet another of Gympie's many Heritage Listed buildings. The only change over the years to the grand exterior of the building has been the more recent erection of a ramp to replace the original steps. At those earlier times, a tri-weekly mail service existed between Gympie and Brisbane.

To the satisfaction of the many businesses associated with gold mining, a third aerial telegraph line was constructed in 1880 between Gympie and the capital city, thus giving a faster method of communication.

However by 1882, the gold mining industry ceased to exist for a time as a major industry. All businesses including the Post Office were affected, and the coach (and mail) service to Brisbane dropped back to twice weekly.

The telephone system came to Gympie in 1901. The Gympie Telephone Directory dated January 1906 listed 85 subscribers for the Gympie Exchange. One of these was for Newbery & Shambler, their phone number being Gympie 23, which number the store retained until Shamblers sold out in 1935.

## **RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

A feature of many Queensland goldfields in barren and isolated locations was that there was nothing to support a community after the gold was exhausted. Most of Queensland's early fields to the north and central areas saw buildings becoming derelict with workings and equipment left to rot or rust away,

Gympie turned out to be an exception as it was easily accessible from seaports and from the capital city, also her rural industries followed the gold. A gradual transition from mining to agricultural and pastoral pursuits passed almost unnoticed so far as the local economy was concerned.

Under the *Goldfields Homestead Act of 1870*, leases were applied for from March 1871, Lease No. 1 being to B. Tyrell – four acres at Monkland. This Act enabled settlement of the fertile land surrounding the goldfield. Rural industries were diverse – dairying, fruit and vegetable production, beef production and timber-getting. By 1871, there were 201 Leases in force ranging from one acre to 40 acres.

Farming was being carried out from Widgee Crossing to the Six Mile Creek, and in places like Eel Creek, Pie Creek, Lagoon Pocket, Glastonbury Creek and Deep Creek. On the coastal side of Gympie, farming areas were set up at Goomboorian and Veteran. (More than 600oz of gold had been taken from the small Veteran field which was discovered in 1879.)

## **DAIRYING**

When the mining industry eased back, it soon became evident that the fertile surrounding district around Gympie offered a profitable alternative. Much of the land was suitable for dairying and after the turn into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, this became a major industry.

The vicinity of Eel Creek had been settled soon after the arrival of the second influx of miners. The State Electoral Roll for 1870-71 for the District of Wide Bay (which



area then included the townships of Maryborough and Gympie) contains 346 names, the majority being from Gympie. Just three years after Gympie's founding, there was an Eel Creek dairy farmer on the Roll - Peter Matheson. (Only landowners and persons earning over 100 pounds (\$200) per year were entered on the Electoral Roll in those days.)



**An early farmer's home**

The miner needed his milk and his butter, so those first dairy farms were cut out of the bush within not much more than a year of the gold discovery. Another such farmer was Peter Lorensen, a migrant from Denmark. In the early 1870s, he took up a large block along a mile of Pie Creek on the South Side. He cleared the land and subsequently hawked his butter into town to sell to miners.

Today, it is a five minutes drive from that property facing Rocks Road into the city. In the 1990s, Peter Lorensen's granddaughters recalled that, in their younger days (that is, the early 20<sup>th</sup> century), the four mile trip by horse and buggy on a rough track through the South Side scrub would take an hour and a half. *(The unmarried sisters Mary and Ellen Lorensen, aged about 90 when they died in Gympie in 1985, lived on the family's Rocks Road property all their lives. They had admitted that they had left Gympie on only two occasions in their lives – for a short visit to Maryborough about 1920 and one to Tewantin in 1983.)*

It was a Gympie farmer who introduced the cream separator to Australia in 1882 and the arrival of cream separators from Hugo du Rietz's native Sweden was the turning point in the industry throughout the whole of Australia. Hugo du Rietz (1831-1898) was an architect and the only one in Gympie for many years. Born in Sweden, du Rietz migrated to Victoria in 1852 at the time of the gold rush there. In 1859, he moved to Queensland's Canoona gold rush in 1852 later settling in Brisbane as a builder. He came to Gympie for the gold rush and became a noted architect, builder and farmer. His farm was at Eel Creek, a few miles southwest of the town. Many of Gympie's brick buildings were built to du Rietz's plans. These included the

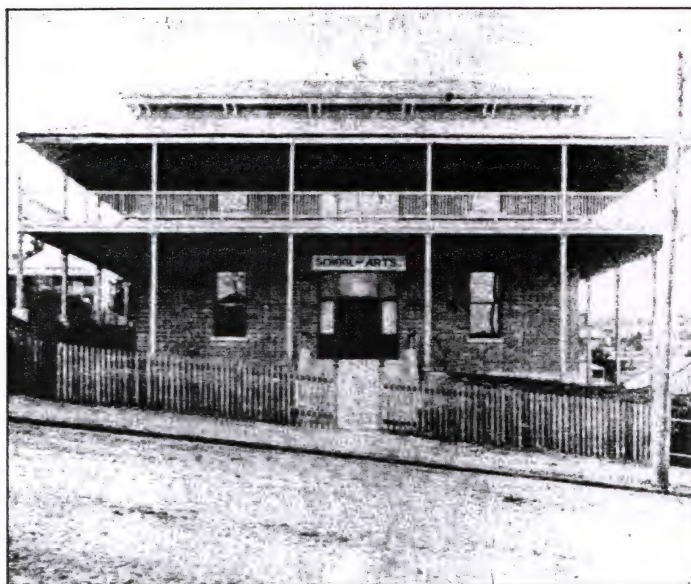


**Hugo du Rietz (GL)**



first St Patrick's School, the Surface Hill Church, the School of Arts (opened in 1905 - now the Gympie Region's Public Gallery), and the Bank of New South Wales (now one of the Gympie Regional Council's offices). Many of his buildings are Heritage Listed.

In the book 'Queensland Architects of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century' (Watson/McKay), there is a list of over 100 Gympie projects in which du Rietz was involved. They were for both new buildings and for additions to private homes and public buildings.



**School of Arts – opened 1905. Architect – Hugo Du Rietz (now the Gympie Regional Art**

in the early 1920s, was conducted by Mr Ernie Smith. He drove a solid tyred International truck with carbide lamps. His 28 mile journeys from out of town into Gympie were on what he conservatively recalled in later times as *rather difficult* roads. Another of the early cream carriers was Len Ellis of Bells Bridge. He drove a Vulcan truck with rear double wheels. In modern times, large refrigerated stainless steel tankers carry Gympie's bulk milk to distant factories.

The Wide Bay Dairy Co-operative Association was formed in 1906 and a branch was opened at Cooroy in 1915. (Joe Shambler was a Gympie supplier from 1910 to 1914.) The Gympie factory building that exists today was opened in September 1935. Now occupied by Tom Grady Rural, it has not processed milk products for some years, but in

Within 20 years, butter factories were established in all the larger settlements of the eastern States. Prior to the use of the separator, butter was made manually in large vats or by hand. The first butter factory in the Gympie district commenced operations in November 1898, with the dairy farmer having to get his cream to the factory by horse and dray. Later, cream cans were taken to the little cream box on the road (that is, the dirt track), in order for the cream carrier to take the cans to the factory.

It was much later that motor trucks came into use for this purpose. One of the earliest motorized cream runs in the area,



**Butter Factory -Wide Bay Co-operative Dairy Co. P/L  
Tozer Street, Gympie – 1920s (GL)**



1935 it was claimed to be the biggest butter factory in the Southern Hemisphere, Gympie's *Golden Nugget* brand of butter being world renowned.

In January 1934, the Wide Bay Dairy Co-operative's butter factory in Gympie produced a record quantity of butter for one month for any factory in Australia, probably also in the world – 1,057,426 pounds. Total production for the year 1934 was 7,862,725 lbs (pounds) and for the year 1933, production had been 6,195,340 lbs. In war-time January 1942, the Gympie factory set a new record for one month – 1,166,020 pounds. This was then recognized as the highest production in one month for any butter factory in the world. The earlier introduction of long distance refrigeration had enabled Gympie to export butter interstate and overseas.

In the early 1900s, fruit and vegetable-growing expanded rapidly and, after the last mine closed in the 1920s, the Gympie district became noted for its quality bananas and beans which were produced in huge quantities for the southern markets. Winter beans could be grown on the warmer northern slopes of Gympie's hills when bean growing was not possible down south, such as in the colder Murrumbidgee area.



**Cream separator**



**Cream cans**

## **WALKERS LIMITED**

The firm John Walker and Company was established at Maryborough in 1868. It was a foundry and engineering works on seven acres of land with four chains of water frontage to the navigable Mary River.

Earlier, in 1864 Mr John Walker had started a foundry at Ballarat in Victoria but soon he saw the need to service the goldfields in Gympie with a wide range of equipment. At today's Monkland Museum in Gympie, Walker's Steam Winding Engine still stands in place as it was 100 years ago. Nearby is Walker's Cornish Boiler.

Walkers Limited quickly grew as a public company towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and into the 20<sup>th</sup>. The company later diversified into products for the sugar, railway and shipping industries in addition to the mining industry. In 1873 Walkers built their first locomotive and they continued making locomotives and railway equipment throughout their history. More recent projects have included Queensland's high-speed tilting trains, light rail vehicles for Malaysia, and trains for the Gold Coast line. Walker's long history of ship building ceased in 1974.

In 1982, the large *EDI Group* took over Walkers. They have since sold the foundry business to *PAC Foundry* which now manufactures parts for draglines and excavation buckets employing 160 foundry workers, while *Downers EDI Rail* manufactures railway rolling stock only. These continue as very big companies in today's world but we could remember that without Gympie's gold discovery in 1867, there would not have been a Walkers foundry in Maryborough in the first place.

From a book about the History of Maryborough, the following dates are of interest when we consider Gympie's history.

**1867** - First gold escort from Gympie.

**1868** - Gold from Gympie shipped on the '*Black Swan*'.



**1871** - Gold from Gympie shipped out on seven vessels. (At that time, Maryborough's population was 3000, considerably less than Gympie, the mining town it served.)

**1873** - The daily mail service started to Gympie.

**1881** - Walkers built their first vessel – *The Premier*. Maryborough's town population was then 7000.

Smaller ore crushing plants had been built in Gympie as early as April 1868 but the advent of the larger mining companies resulted in the need for much larger and heavier items of machinery. An example is the huge set of 80 stampers which once operated at the No. 2 South Great Eastern Mine at Monkland, having been manufactured at Bundaberg. Only eight stampers remain in their original place at the Museum today. The stampers were where metal-bearing ore from the underground shafts was crushed and the gold extracted. The larger Scottish Gympie Mine had 120 stampers for its greater production.

### **WILLIAM ALFRED NEWBERY**

W.A. (Bill) Newbery was born in 1834 on the Isle of Wight where he was educated, the Newbery family having lived on the Isle for many centuries. He learned his trade as whitesmith-journeyman and gasfitter in the town of Newport. For five years he conducted a successful business on his own account in Bournemouth and afterwards at Portsmouth. Family records indicate that Newbery was encouraged for health reasons to migrate to a warmer country such as Australia. Queensland's weather must have suited him because he died here at the age of 79.

By the 1880s, Gympie in the colony of Queensland was a well established mining town being attractive to immigrants with unlimited opportunities for skilled tradesmen and businessmen.

Shipping records show that W.A. Newbery aged 48, and his wife Martha (nee Bull) aged 43, left England in July 1881 on board the SS *City of Aberdeen*. There were 19 passengers including four of the Newbery children - Ellen, John, Albert and Edward, then aged 24, 18, 11 and 6. The eldest child Ellen (Nell) comes prominently into our story later when she married one of the Shambler brothers.

One of the Newbery descendants recalls having been told that Mr Newbery was a very straight laced gentleman who had been a Lay Preacher in England. During the long voyage on board the *City of Aberdeen*, Newbery is said to have conducted regular worship services. All passengers attended as well as ship's crew who were not working, although rumour was that the Captain was not happy at this. The ship arrived at Moreton Bay on 24 November 1881, after four months at sea.

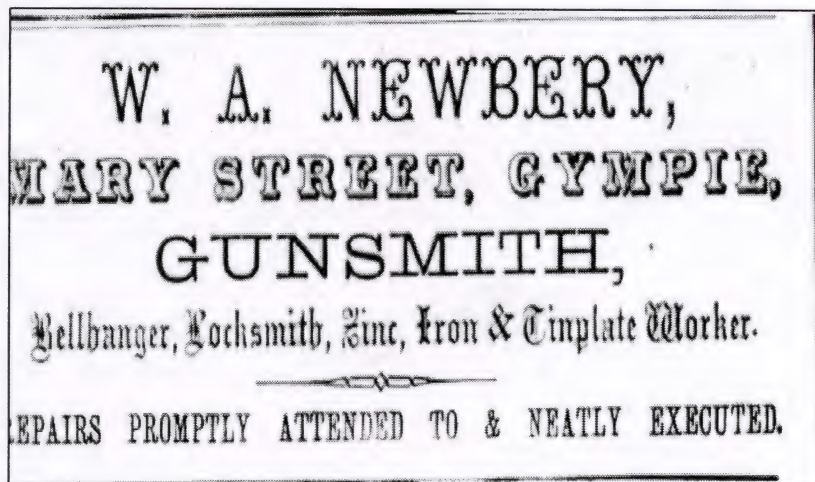
After a short time in Brisbane, the Newbery family moved in 1882 to Gympie where Mr Newbery immediately started business in a small way, his chief reason for choosing Gympie being on account of his *having learned that the town was to be lighted up with gas*. The Gympie Gas Company had been registered in February 1882 and on 18 December 1883, active operations had commenced. The town with its street lights was soon lit up for the first time.

By his strict attention to efficiency and quality of service, Newbery increased his business and was soon obliged to move to larger premises. He chose to rent a two storey Mary Street building built in 1884. It was owned by the Gympie Gas Company and had a ground floor of 55ft by 70ft.

This building still exists well over 100 years later as Nos. 191-193 Mary Street and has been occupied in recent times by a Real Estate firm. The building was and still is next door to the premises of The Gympie Times, which newspaper has been in existence for over 140 years.



Over the years, the upper floor had a variety of tenants. In the late 1880s, the Philharmonic Choir was holding its meetings on the first floor of the Newbery & Shambler building. This choir grew to be a large group. In 1918, it had 150 voices and regularly won Eisteddfodau awards. In 1892, Mr Leslie Jamieson Solicitor, notified the public through The Gympie Times that his office *was moving to the Commercial Chambers over Messrs Newbery & Shambler next to the Times office.* In June 1903, Mr R.W. Henry advertised his Dental Rooms over Newbery & Shambler's store, *where teeth would be extracted without pain*



Advertisement in Thackeray's Book - mid 1880s.

In 1885, James W Squire joined Newbery in a partnership. Squire managed a new department – a Boot and Shoe Shop directly across Mary Street from Newbery's well-established business. Apart from the large retail footwear shop, Squire had a factory alongside where high quality boots and shoes of all shapes and sizes were manufactured - *from tiny children's shoes to workmen's hobnailed boots.* Newbery & Squire also imported boots and shoes from Britain, the Continent and America.



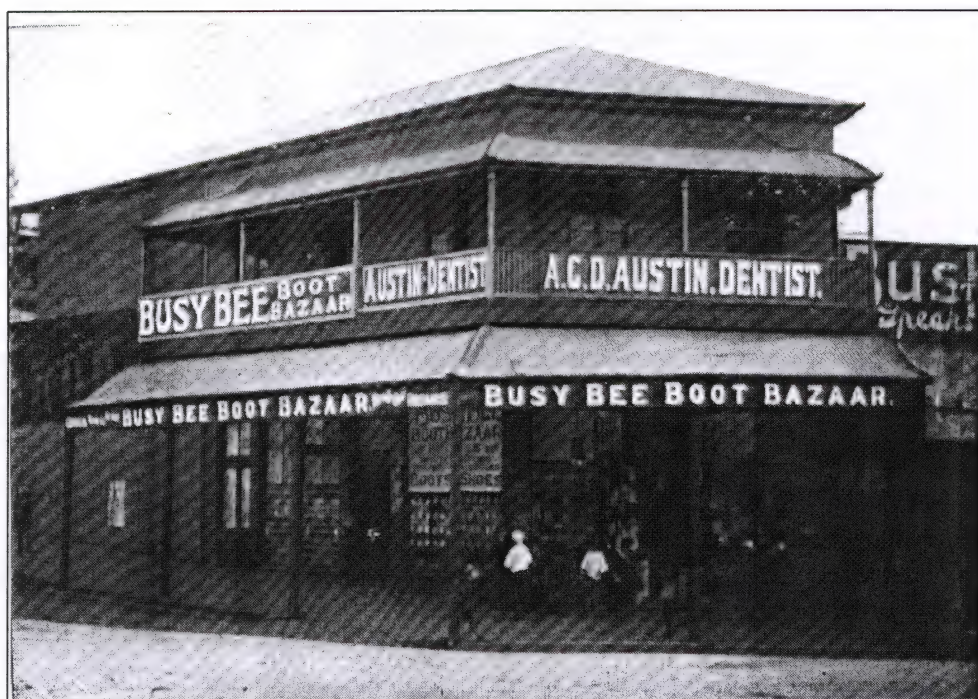
Front page advertisement -  
1898



c.1898, Mary Street, opposite  
Newbery & Shambler

As Newbery & Squire, the new firm advertised in The Gympie Times as *General Ironmongers, Galvanised Ironworkers and Plumbers, Boot Manufacturers and Importers.* Research has failed to reveal why a partnership came to be formed between Wm Newbery, Gasfitter, Plumber and Gunsmith and Jas Squire, a Bootmaker.





**1911 – The building on this corner site at the Fiveways is now occupied by Baldwin and Cartwright lawyers.**

The partnership lasted a few years until 1892. However Squire continued the boot and shoe business in his own name from the same premises. He called his shop *JW Squire's Busy Bee Boot Warehouse*. In 1898, Squire's business was acquired by John C. Dixon who later shifted the business to the Gympie Fiveways. There his shop was called the *Busy Bee Boot Bazaar* and he continued that business until at least 1911. (John Dixon had a brother, Thomas Dixon, who was a highly regarded footwear manufacturer at West End in Brisbane. The latter's building, now over 100 years old, is today called the Thomas Dixon Centre and has been used for some years as an arts community centre.)

In 1899, seven years after W.A. (Bill) Newbery had commenced business, he took his son-in-law W.H. (Bill) Shambler, aged 29, into partnership. The expanding business then became known as Newbery & Shambler.

After working for another three years, Newbery's health caused him to retire from active work at the age of 58 years, but the business continued to trade under the name of Newbery & Shambler for another 25 years.

Sadly, Mrs Bill (Martha) Newbery had died in Gympie in 1886 at the age of 50. This was only a few years after the Newbery family (or at least a part) had migrated from England to start a new life in the Colony of Queensland.

Bill married again in 1889, this time to Janet Prosser of Bundaberg. They had a son in 1891. Sadly, the infant died the following month and only another month later, Janet herself died. Newbery married a third time in 1899 – to Agnes Sargeant at Toowong in Brisbane. Bill and Agnes had no children.

Mr Bill Newbery died at Brisbane in 1913, thus ending a remarkably successful business life which had a distinct influence on the growth of the town of Gympie and district.







## WILLIAM HENRY SHAMBLER

W.H. (Bill) Shambler was born in 1861 at Bournemouth, one of four sons of Richard Shambler a Coastguard in Sussex and his wife Mary nee Cutler. Young Bill sailed to Australia from Plymouth in 1882 aged 21 years, travelling to Brisbane on the SS *Albany*. The *Albany* had called at Cooktown on 4 December 1882 and at Townsville, Bowen, Mackay and Rockhampton before arriving at Brisbane, the passengers having had a total of 65 days on board.

A shipmate on board was Shambler's friend Samuel Holloway, aged 23 years. On moving to Gympie, both Bill and Sam obtained employment with W.A. Newbery and continued with Newbery and Squire. In 1892, Sam Holloway set up his own business as a Gasfitter and Plumber in Upper Mary Street just up from the Newbery & Shambler's building. The business later became Holloways Limited. Holloway was still involved as Chairman of Directors at the time of his death some 40 years later in 1934.



1st Row: J. KING (Secretary), C. A. NEFFLE, C. STUART, G. R. HEMMING and Hon. J. A. CULLINANE, W. H. SHAMBLER, V. H. TOZIER, T. M. LARSON, A. E. WEBB, J. F. HOLLIS.  
2nd Row: A. G. HAMSEY, F. B. SYKES, A. W. HALE (President), R. HANKIN, S. HOLLOWAY.  
3rd Row: JAS. McDONALD, R. BYTHEWAY.

**From Gympie Times Special Christmas Issue, 15<sup>th</sup>  
December, 1911 – Chamber of Commerce and Mines.  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Row – J.A. Cullinane and then J.W. Shambler)**

**Visitors**

TO OUR

Gympie Show

MUST NOT FAIL TO SEE

**THE NEW**

**Massey-Harris  
Disc Plough.**





AUTOMATIC SELF-LEVELLING AND HOT  
WATER CYLINDERS, SUITABLE FOR DAIRIES  
AND PRIVATE HOUSES WILL BE WORKING.

**Shambler's Limited**



**1918 Ambulance**

Over the decades, Bill Shambler and Sam Holloway had many community interests in common. For example, they both served on the Chamber of Commerce and Mines, and both were involved with the Fire Brigade which commenced in November 1900; also the Ambulance Committee, the Station opening in 1904.

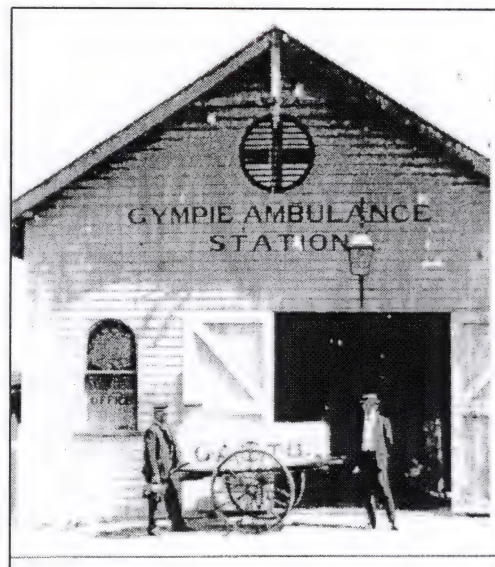


## HOLLOWAYS

In many ways, Holloways was a similar business to Newbery & Shambler. Each had its plumbing department. Each sold ironmongery, camping goods, rifles and ammunition. Both businesses advertised that they *specialised* in glassware, crockery and cutlery.

Sam Holloway was an enthusiastic worker in numerous public bodies. Apart from those mentioned in connection with his long time friend Bill Shambler, Holloway was a Committee member on the Show Society. He also worked for the Gympie Hospital which body was then supported chiefly by voluntary subscription. An indication of the caring nature of Gympie's early residents is the fact that the first meeting to set up a hospital for miners was called in January 1868. It was called the Nashville Miners' Hospital.

Businessman Holloway was a member of the Wide Bay Infantry from his early days. He was a Quarter Master with the W.B.I. at the time of the shearers' strike at Barcaldine in the 1880s and he was detailed for duty there. After 25 years service, Holloway retired with the rank of Captain.



Gympie Ambulance Station –  
1904 (GL)



Fire Brigade cart with the horse, with the horse "Blarney" – 1913/14.

From time to time, W.H. (Bill) Shambler was one of the men who served the community as a Justice of the Peace. The Gympie District Court proceedings were always reported in The Gympie Times - usually at considerable length. In March 1906, among the lawsuits, two cross cases of defamation were heard simultaneously and a special jury consisting of W.H. Shambler and three other men was empanelled. The jury found for the defendants and assessed the damages at fifteen pounds (\$30) for the male plaintiff and four pounds (\$8) for the female plaintiff.

W.H. Shambler's Signature



Various newspaper accounts over the years mention the name of W.H. Shambler as being called to be Chairman of such and such a meeting. In July 1912, the paper reported on *the big monthly meeting of the Central State School, W.H. Shambler being in the chair*. At that meeting, the Secretary told of having written to the City Council regarding the possible closing of half the width of School Street in order to afford additional playground accommodation. The meeting also resolved to write to the Education Department regarding the classes being held on the verandahs and in the playsheds. That was *not considered advisable especially in winter time*.

**'CLEANLINESS IS NEXT TO GODLINESS.'**

# S. HOLLOWAY,

General Ironmonger, Plumber, Tinsmith,  
and Ironworker.

**MARY STREET, GYMPIE.**



**The BROOM! The BROOM!**  
**The Terrible Broom!**  
It sweeps them into an early Tomb.  
SPIDERS young, and SPIDERS old  
They spy THE BROOM and  
Their blood runs cold.

—'Opportunity'—

**CONVICT BRUSHES (young and old)**  
CARPET BRUSHES.  
FLOOR BRUSHES.  
YARD BRUSHES.  
SCOTCH BRUSHES.  
HAIR BRUSHES.  
TOOTH BRUSHES.  
SHAVING BRUSHES.  
BATHING BRUSHES.  
BOTTLE BRUSHES.  
KITCHEN BRUSHES.  
SPOON BRUSHES.  
WINE BRUSHES.  
STOVE BRUSHES.  
NAIL BRUSHES.  
BAT BRUSHES.  
OIL BRUSHES.

BOOTH BRUSHES.  
CLOTHES BRUSHES.  
PAINT BRUSHES.  
VARNISH BRUSHES.  
WHITEWASH BRUSHES.  
TAR BRUSHES.  
SEPARATOR BRUSHES.  
POT BRUSHES.  
HEARTH BRUSHES.  
DANDY BRUSHES.  
BODY BRUSHES.

Brushing the Old Year out  
Brushing the New Year in

Any of the above Brushes can be obtained at  
**S. HOLLOWAY'S**  
THE BBB IN GYMPIE

1911

# S. Holloway

**Motor for the Million!**  
I.H.C. Vehicles, Buggies, and Waggon.



SAY THE SCOTTISH COMMISSIONERS IN RELATION TO THEIR TRIP IN THE BACKBLOCKS OF N.S.W. THE RIDE WHICH WE HAD FROM HUNTERBURY TO THE FRANKLANDS RIVER WAS OVER A ROAD ALMOST IMPASSABLE TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC, AND TESTED THEIR STRENGTH TO THE UTMOST, BUT THEY STOOD THE EXTRAORDINARY ORDEAL ADMIRABLY.

THE FOLLOWING HAVE PURCHASED  
**I.H.C. Motor Waggon**  
ON THE NORTH COAST DISTRICT:

MR. McDONALD, Cessford.	MR. BEGG, Nambour.
MR. SMITH, Montville.	MR. CARPENTER, Mooloolah.
MR. BUSH, Caboolture.	MR. PETERSEN, Gympie.

And All Speak Highly of their Purchase.

—WILL CARRY UP TO A TON—  
GOOD INVESTMENT FOR CARRIERS, FRUIT GROWERS,  
CREAM CARTERS—IS FACT FOR ALL KINDS OF GOODS  
CARRIAGE.

**I.H.C. Motor Buggy**  
IS A MARVEL FOR PLEASURE.  
HUNDREDS IN USE ALL OVER AUSTRALIA.  
INSPECT THEM—THE EASIEST DIAGNOSABLE ARRANGED  
—SOLE AGENT FOR GYMPIE—

# S. HOLLOWAY,

**Hardware Merchant,**  
**Mary Street, Gympie.**

1912

## STOCK EXCHANGE

By the end of the 1800s, a lot of Scottish capitalists had started financing the further development of Gympie mines and there were a large number of Gympie mining companies listed on the Sydney Stock Exchange as well as overseas, and on the Gympie, the Brisbane and the Charters Towers Exchanges.

Many of W.H. Shambler's fellow businessmen were involved as Directors of mining companies. However, in the 1895 *List of Mines, Companies, Directors & Managers etc.* which was published by The Gympie Times, W.H. Shambler was listed in only one company as a Director – the Lady Mary No. 6, which was situated in Bligh Street behind the Gympie Fire Station.

As we have seen, much of Gympie's past is still evident in the historic buildings in the main street; many prestigious offices being built from the late 1870s onwards and today are Heritage listed. One of many outstanding examples is the former Gympie Stock



Exchange, such building being initially built in 1888 for the Australian Stock Exchange Bank.

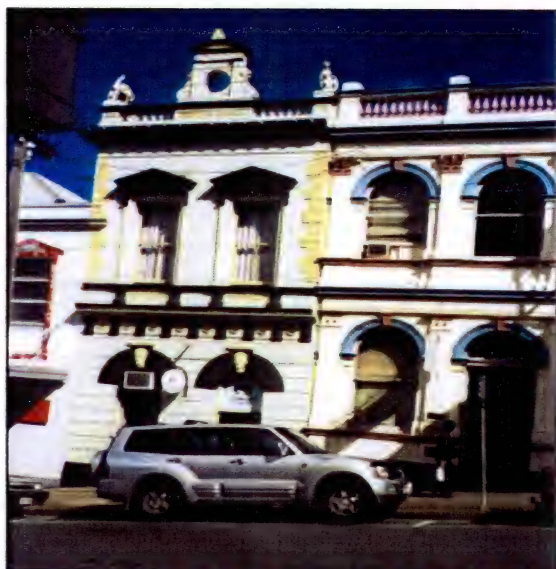
The 1880 decade had been responsible for a wild share market boom, and it was in 1893 that the Gympie Stock Exchange commenced with 127 members, 60 companies initially being listed. It was one of few Stock Exchanges outside Australia's capital cities.



**Stock Exchange Building -1880.**



**2008 – 236 Mary St. Gympie's 1880s Stock Exchange Building .**



**2008 – Built in the early 1880's (after the original building was destroyed by fire)**

**From left: 216 Mary Street – Optometrist since 1920, and No 218 – Solicitors' offices, both built in the early 1880s The extensive ornamentation is typical of the period.**

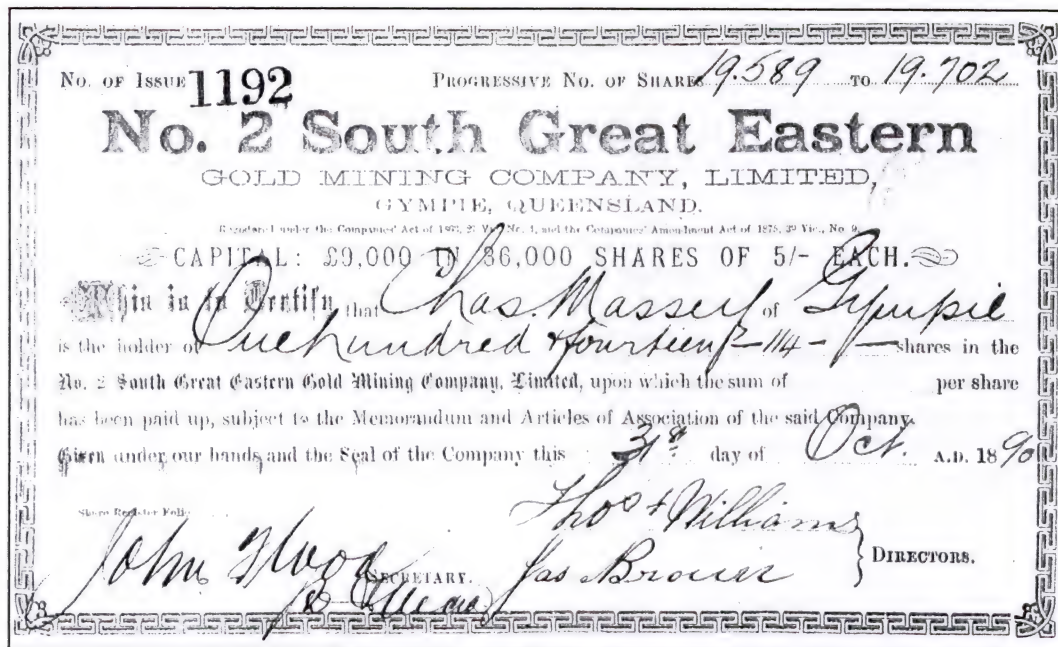
With big gold yields around that time, a period of speculation had occurred and many people participated in the orgy of share gambling that followed. This period had seen a transition from mining claims owned by individuals to limited liability companies. A man with but a few pounds to spare was not able to buy an 8<sup>th</sup> or a 20<sup>th</sup> share in a mine, yet there were very few men who could not purchase or take up 50 or 150 shares in a 20000 or a 48000 share company, and then pay for calls of sixpence (5 cents) per week. The Stock Exchange thus provided this means of investment for the general public.

The Gympie Stock Exchange Club had been fortunate to obtain premises in the Smithfield Chambers building on the opposite side of Upper Mary Street. That building was erected in 1895 to house shareholders and mining secretaries. As No. 239 today, it is yet another of Gympie's Historical Listed buildings, being now occupied by Power & Cartwright, Solicitors.

At times, for example at the 7pm call, it was not unusual for Upper Mary Street to be so crowded with investors that vehicles (horse-drawn of course) had to be diverted to other streets. Following a favourable mining development, the price of shares could jump from



a few pence to as many shillings in a few hours (a rise of say 12% or more). Nevertheless it was later clear that with declining gold yields, many people found themselves with valueless shares for which they had paid good money.



#### A Share Certificate- 1890

After a very busy 30 years, the Gympie Stock Exchange closed its doors in 1923. The Stock Exchange building was then sold to solicitor F.B. Sykes and a legal practice has been conducted from the premises ever since - No. 236 Mary Street - today's Neilson, Stanton & Parkinson.

Other interesting buildings a little down Mary Street are Nos. 216 and 218. The latter is another legal office, with No. 216 having been occupied by an Optometrist since the 1920s. The original building on this No. 216 was a wooden single story with a simple design and a fancy wooden facade. However in December 1880, the building was burnt down in a huge fire which destroyed all buildings from No. 214 to No. 238.

Today's No. 216 is occupied by Optometrist Vincent Tan. The building's owner, that is the previous Optometrist Peter Goldsworthy, did a magnificent job in completely refurbishing its three levels which are less than five metres wide. The building's facade is the most ornamented in Gympie with full statues of a kangaroo and an emu, with lion heads, thistles, rosettes and so on.

In the Newbery & Shambler business, Bill Newbery the owner, and Bill Shambler (one of his young tradesmen, later a son-in-law and ultimately a business partner), must have got on very well together. Initially the Newbery and the Shambler families had been friends in England. In May 1884, Bill Shambler married Bill and Martha Newbery's daughter Ellen (Nell) at the Wesleyan Church at the One Mile, Gympie.

Between 1885 and 1899, Bill and Nell Shambler had five children - sons Edgar and Arthur, and three daughters, one of whom died at the age of 10 months. In December 1909, The Gympie Times in its *Highlights of the Year* included an article on the Silver Wedding celebrations of Mr and Mrs W.H. Shambler. The newspaper described their entertaining 40 friends at the Shamblers' home. Long-time friends Mr and Mrs A.J. Fisher provided an artistic wedding cake and during the evening, songs were rendered and games were indulged in and the festivities were continued until the early hours of Thursday morning.



The Arthur Fisher family and the Shamblers were later linked through a marriage, the Fishers also being early business people in Gympie.

## FISHER FAMILY

In 1863, Arthur John Fisher (1854-1939) arrived in Australia with his father John. The voyage in the sailing ship *The Light of the Age* took three months. Following about three years in Brisbane in the butchering trade, John Fisher was seized with the adventurous spirit of the times and moved to the new gold settlement of Gympie where he settled in a butcher's shop at Jones Hill. Although Jones Hill was over the Mary River from the main goldfield, there was a large settled population in the immediate vicinity of the Jones Hill and The Dawn gold diggings. There being no bridges over the Mary River for some years, people and goods got to the area called South Side (sic) through shallow crossings.

In 1873, many Gympie men, including business proprietors, were attracted to the new Eldorado at the famous Palmer River goldfield on Cape York Peninsula. Among those were John Fisher and his young son Arthur. They first tramped the 30 miles (50 kilometres) to Noosa from where they caught a steamer to Cooktown.

One of the Oldest Establishments on Gympie.

**ARTHUR FISHER,**

**Family and Retail Butcher,**

**CALEDONIAN HILL.**

*Small Goods of all Descriptions of the very best quality obtainable.*

CIVILITY AND CLEANLINESS.

The Fisher men had dreams like so many others but after only eight months on the Palmer, they moved back to Cooktown where sadly, Fisher Senior died. Arthur then 22 years of age, returned south to Gympie and established a butcher's shop on Caledonian Hill. (Soon after, a Mr Sheridan got permission to attach a skillion to the shop from which he ran a private school.) The site is now occupied by the seafood shop on today's Apollonian Vale, next door to the Australian Hotel.

**STARTLING REDUCTIONS**

**Arthur Fisher,**  
*Quality Butcher*

PRICE LIST FROM NOVEMBER 20:

MUTTON.	BEEF.
<p><b>PRIME YOUNG WETHER</b></p> <p>LEGS, per lb. 8</p> <p>LOINS &amp; CUYETS, lb. 8</p> <p>SHOULDERS, lb. 4</p> <p>BREASTS, lb. 3</p> <p>STEWING CHOPS, lb. 4</p> <p>HALF SHEEP, lb. 4</p> <p>HIND QUARTERS, lb. 5</p> <p>FORE QUARTERS, lb. 2</p>	<p><b>BEEF.</b></p> <p>PRIME OX (No Cow Beef)</p> <p>RIB ROAST, per lb. 6</p> <p>SIRLOIN ROAST, lb. 8</p> <p>CHUCK ROAST, lb. 4</p> <p>TOPSIDE, lb. 4</p> <p>FILLET STEAK, lb. 10</p> <p>RUM STEAK, lb. 10</p> <p>SIRLOIN STEAK, lb. 9</p> <p>RIB STEAK, lb. 6</p> <p>BLADE BONE, lb. 6</p> <p>BEEF STEAK, lb. 6</p> <p>GRASY BEEF, lb. 4</p> <p>CORNER SILVERSIDE, lb. 8</p> <p>CORNER ROUND, lb. 6</p> <p>CORNER ROLL, lb. 8</p>

BEEF.	PORK.
<p>CORNER BRISKET, lb. 8</p> <p>12) C. BEEF 3 9</p> <p>25 C. BEEF 7 8</p> <p>12) C. BRISKET 9 0</p> <p>25 C. BRISKET 9 0</p> <p>SHIN MEAT, without bone 3</p> <p>SHINS &amp; LEGS with bone 7</p> <p>PIE MEAT, 3lb for 1 0</p> <p>SAUSAGES, per lb. 4</p> <p>MINCE, per lb. 5</p>	<p><b>PORK.</b></p> <p>LEGS AND LOIN, lb. 9</p> <p>CORNER HAND AND SPRING, lb. 7</p>

SUNDRIES.
<p>OX TONGUES, each 1 6</p> <p>SHEEP TONGUES, each 1 6</p> <p>OX BRAINS, each 4</p> <p>OX KIDNEYS, each 6</p> <p>SHEEP KIDNEYS, each 1</p> <p>OX TAIL, each 1 0</p> <p>PURE DRIPPING, per lb. 5</p> <p>TRIBE, per lb. 6</p> <p>FRY, each 2</p>

**STOP PRESS**

I guarantee to supply nothing but the very best QUALITY. The absolute cleanliness of my premises, my up-to-date Plant and Modern Methods of treating meat immediately it is killed are your assurance of QUALITY and that all Meat will be fresh and scheduled when delivered.

No better QUALITY or SERVICE can be offered you. The fullest investigation is invited and on inspection of my premises will prove that the utmost cleanliness is observed in all branches of our trade.

The shops are kept FREE FROM FLIES, and all Menstrue, Corning, etc., is done in full view of the public.

All orders are sent on Sandown's Counter form. Your order will be appreciated.

**ARTHUR FISHER**

CALEDONIAN HILL, PHONE 2.

CR. BEND AND STEWART TERRACE, PHONE 505.

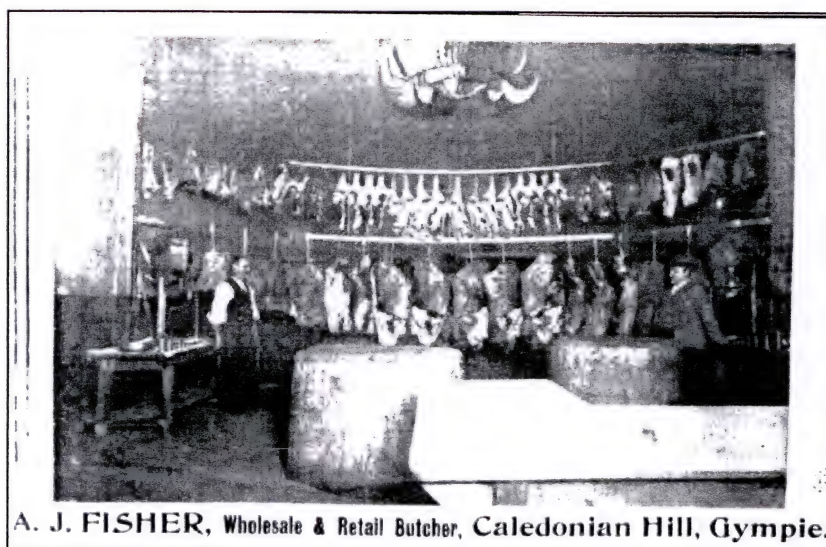


**William Henry and Ellen  
Shambler, taken at Sydney in  
1893**



On Arthur Fisher's return to the mining town in 1873, there were still of course, many vestiges of the mining camp town. The main street was still a track in which vehicles were frequently bogged and all around, there was still a great deal of scrub. Behind the Mary Street shops, dumps and holes stretched towards the river. The bark and canvas shops and dwellings were however disappearing, making way for more substantial shops of wooden palings, with bridle paths leading in different directions about the settlement.

Arthur Fisher retired in 1930. For years he had been an active member of the Show Society and *gave consistent support to progressive movements*. One advertisement in The Gympie Times in that year informed the public of Fisher's *Startling Reductions* – Fillet steak for sale at one shilling (10 cents) per pound. Beef sausages were sixpence (5c) a pound and legs of mutton were at sixpence (5c) per pound.



**Promotional Postcard – 1885 displaying meat hanging in the butcher shop**

A 'Stop Press' in that advertisement emphasised that the shops *are kept free from flies with all Mincing, Corning etc being done in full view of the public*. At that time, not all butcher's shops could make that claim. The high quality and service at his two shops was emphasized – at Caledonian Hill, also at the corner of Bent Street and Stewart Terrace. The latter was where butcher Geoff Buckley has his shop today. In addition to the Caledonian Hill and the Stewart Terrace shops, Fisher owned other butcher shops around Gympie, they being leased to others but with Fisher providing the supplies.

The Annex to the St Andrew's Hall on Red Hill was erected in memory of Arthur Fisher.

Other *Highlights* in The Gympie Times from April to October 1909 give an indication of life in Gympie at the time. For example in that six months period, there were seven houses destroyed in separate fires. At the time, the Gympie Fire Brigade was made up of volunteers whose equipment was a cart drawn by *Blarney*. Many stories have been told about that amazing horse.

Also as *1909 Highlights*, there were stories about accidents at both the Scottish Gympie Mine and at the New Dawn Mine. The hazards of working up to a kilometre underground were much greater in those days. Nevertheless while today's miners are fortunate that health and safety regulations have changed over the years, safety still remains a major concern in all mining activities.



Significant sporting events were always reported in the Gympie Times. In April 1909, the Gympie v. Toowoomba cricket match was won by Toowoomba by five runs. On the same day, Gympie lost by 32 runs to a Finney Isles team from Maryborough.

An unusual 1909 sport by today's standards was Club Swinging. Tom Burrows broke his previous record in club swinging at the Theatre Royal. His time – 66 hours 37 minutes.

In September of 1909, Alex Wilson (Gympie) defeated F. Booth in a boxing match at the Theatre Royal but the following month at the Shop Assistants' Carnival, Alex failed to stop J. Doherty in 10 rounds. It was Alec Wilson who had a gymnasium in Gympie at which Archie Bradley did his initial training. Bradley went on to become the 1920s Australian Welterweight Champion. Bradley was a much admired Gympie icon. (See *'The Fighting Career of Archie Bradley'* by Keith Parker.)

In April 1909, a deputation of Gympie Mine Managers had waited upon the Minister for Mines, urging the introduction of a Gold Stealing Bill when similar action was being considered in other States. In June, there was a conference in Gympie of representatives of interested bodies to discuss the matter of a railway up the valley of the Mary River.

Around the 1900s, the State Member for Gympie was Mr Andrew Fisher. He had previously been an engine driver in the mines and a keen worker for social justice. Fisher entered Federal politics in 1901 at the time of Federation, and in due course, while the Member of Parliament for Wide Bay (which included Gympie), he became Prime Minister of Australia. Andrew Fisher holds two distinctions, that of being Australia's second Labour Prime Minister, and in addition, he was the first of only two Queenslanders ever to become P.M. He was Prime Minister on three separate occasions between 1908 and 1915. In July 1909, the first payment of Old Age Pensions was made by the Federal Government and during Fisher's term of office, a form of Workers' Compensation was set up, and both the Commonwealth Bank and the Australian Navy were established.



**Residence (1993) in Gympie of Andrew Fisher, Australia's Prime Minister (early 1900s), originally in Maori Lane and relocated to the Gympie Museum.**





**The Andrew Fisher House, rear view, located at the Museum - 1993.**

One wonders how often it was possible for Prime Minister Fisher to visit his Gympie home in his own electorate. The Commonwealth Parliament was meeting in Melbourne until the 1920s. Transport from Melbourne to Gympie could perhaps have been a combination of boat to Sydney, train to Brisbane then train again. While he was in Parliament, the Gympie residence where he and his wife lived on their return home was in Maori Lane on Red Hill. In 1973, this house was owned by Pharmacist Malcolm Meldrum. He donated it to The Gympie Historical Society who re-located it to the Gympie Museum site at Monkland. The Society refurbished the building in 1996. It is a simple four-roomed wooden miner's cottage, typical of many workmen's homes in those days. Sited now as it is, it is of considerable significant nationally. Fisher was later appointed High Commissioner for Australia in London. He died in England in 1928.

Back in April 1900, Mr and Mrs W.H. Shambler and their younger daughter Win, then aged 11 years, travelled to the 'Old Country' for a holiday and to visit family. After their return home in November, the Gympie Times News & Notes column reported on their holiday and the fact that in London, they had met a number of other Gympie people whose names the paper listed. They included Mr Arthur Fisher and his daughter Miss Lillas (Lil) Fisher.

The Times continued - *To all who are aware of Mr Shambler's energy and business acumen, it will not be surprising that he devoted much of his holiday to business and the advancement of the firm of Newbery & Shambler.* Visits were made to various factories which would be of benefit to him and his customers of Gympie and district. In many large factories of the Birmingham district, it was reported that he had seen everything from guns of the highest calibre to padlocks and doorlocks which were being manufactured by the gross. Potteries and Glass Works were also visited with *heavy purchases made of goods to suit the Gympie trade.*


In November 1917, Mr W.H. Shambler *formally opened* the Annual Summer Fair of the Surface Hill Methodist Church. The Gympie Times gave its usual long report on such a function. It is interesting to note that the total amount raised during the morning, afternoon and evening Fair was 48 pounds (\$96) *which was considered a good result in view of the threatening state of the weather and the heavy rain which fell during the Fair.* (In recent years, a Market Day has been held in the grounds of that same church raising \$6/7000 each year for the Gympie Region's School Chaplaincy Fund.)



A black and white photograph of a group of eleven people, including men, women, and children, posing outdoors in front of a large tree. The group is arranged in two rows, with some people standing and others sitting or kneeling. They are dressed in early 20th-century attire, including hats and suits.

**Family get-together - 1920s.**  
**Standing:** Lil Shambler, Ellen Shambler, William Shambler, Florence Simpson, Edgar Shambler.  
**Seated:** Gert Shambler, Joan Shambler, Arthur Shambler, Reg Smith, Colin Simpson, Winifred (Peg) Smith, Malcolm Simpson, Douglas Simpson (partly obscured)

Over the years, Newbery & Shambler were regular (daily) advertisers in The Gympie Times - originally a thrice weekly newspaper. A typical advertisement in 1893 told of the arrival at Newbery & Shambler of a *long-felt want* – *325 rolls of wall paper with 13 different patterns*. This sale of wallpaper would indicate that the style of homes in Gympie was improving – big changes from the slab walls of a little time back when



**TRY**  **Oct 1913**

**NEWBERRY & SHAMBLER**

—ESTD—

**SADDLERY**

Having a great demand for all classes of **SADDLERY** goods, we publish this 1913 list, hoping for the benefit of our Country who are constantly receiving orders of various descriptions—English, Irish, Levant, French, English, Heavy, Levant, and other classes. Also Irish saddles, Stock Saddles, all sizes, and Tree, Hair of Horse, Harness, Sacks, English Chains, and everything in the SADDLERY line.

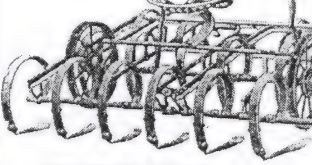


**Stock and Park Saddles**

Suitable for the Amateur or Professional Rider, made from the Best Material, Extra Tree, Long and Short Flaps, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779,

THE "CHAMPION RIDING HARROW!"  
THE FAMOUS SPRING TOOTH HARROW

IN TWO SIZES 17 AND 23 TIERH.



SAVERY AND SHAMBLER'S.

Also NEW MODEL PLOWS, 8, 10, 12, 14 inch, and Duplicate Shares are procurable, at

**NEWBERY & SHAMBLER'S,** THE APPROVED AGENTS.

ALL FARMERS' IMPLEMENTS AT BRISBANE PRICES.

Chick Feed Iron, all lengths. Wire Netting, 150 feet for 3s. 6d. Stock and Plant Wire. Two Tons of Standard Paint, all colors. The Famous J.I.C. are still leading.

IN FACT

**N. & S. ARE THE PEOPLE**

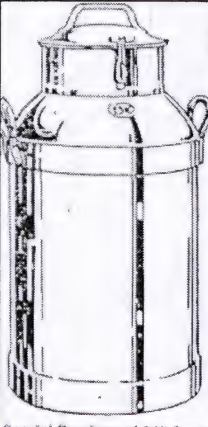
June 1902 For anything you require



'wallpaper' of glued newspaper kept out the breezes. In the same Gympie Times advertisement, Newbery & Shambler were also offering 720 *Patent Air Tight American Jelly Jars at wholesale prices.*


In their advertisements, Newbery & Shambler always emphasized the firm's first class quality, as well as having the best prices in town. In 1894, they were offering large quantities of *goods at unheard of prices* for example -

- \* *Wire netting - 2 ft wide for 3 pence a yard. (2 cents per metre).*
- \* *Axes at five shillings (50 cents) each.*
- \* *Axe handles at nine shillings (90 cents) per dozen.*
- \* *Patent American buggy paint which required no varnish being available in various colours.*



Special Purchase of 500 Cans.  
This is a very strong Can, capable of standing many tests of rough usage. Has an enormous sale on account of its price and high quality, and sold to us at—  
25% BELOW THE USUAL PRICE.

**SHAM**

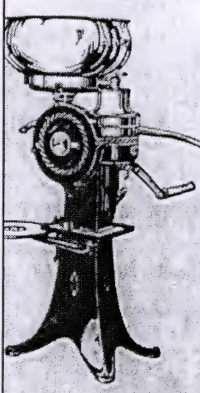


Sep. 1901

**Federal Wire Strainer and Splicer.**  
PATENTED IN ALL STATES.  
IT PULLS BOTH WAYS, and will Strain double as far as any Other.

Price per Thousand ...	£12 0 0
Price per Hundred ...	1 5 0

**Newbery & Shambler,** SOLE AGENTS,  
GYMPIE.



See your local agent or write for full particulars to:

**LAVAL**

Alfa Laval

**Lacqueret Carriage Paints**  
HELPS YOU OUT OF ALL TROUBLE



**Don't Forget**

Sept 1918

Regarding guns, Mr Newbery, when he founded the business, firstly advertised as a gunsmith and metal worker, but in 1896, Newbery & Shambler were advertising in a big way the sale and repair of guns, rifles and revolvers of every description at *the best value in the colony of Queensland.* Furthermore, Newbery & Shambler were *the leading Plumbers, Fitters and Bell hangers in town, having all the machinery for every class of work in iron, tin or copper.* In addition, *Sheffield cutlery was being offered at prices lower than ever before seen by the Gympie public.*



**Dairymen, Stockowners and Breeders**

**Sykes' Drench and Sykes's Animal Abortion Cure.**



**NEWBERRY & SHAMBLER, GYMPIE.**

Feb 1913

Kilkivan field never reached the size of that at Gympie, the initial discovery in 1868 was followed by the discovery of copper in 1872, then mercury in 1873 and various other minerals within a 10 mile radius of Kilkivan town. These discoveries resulted in more business for the storekeepers in the neighbouring larger town of Gympie.

In the 1890s, certain rural land around the Gympie area was being made available under Group Selection Schemes. Among such settlements were those established at Tuchekoi, Skyrings Creek and Kin Kin. None of these Groups was totally successful but they did result in the opening up of further land for dairying and other farming purposes. Many families who left the mining game moved to rural areas to take up farming, with Gympie in due course becoming the centre of a huge dairying industry.

In addition to the Government Schemes, individual selectors took up land. Examples are the Amamoor Estate which was selected by Ferguson & Company, and some Timber Millers. Zac Skyring also selected land at Scrubby Creek, at Mary's Creek and at Pie Creek. Scrubland was avoided in the very earliest times because of the need for so much tree-felling and clearing. Yet these lands proved the most valuable in subsequent years after the timber had been removed.

Businessman Bill Newbery was obviously foresighted, as was his successor Bill Shambler. Both men saw that the gold mining industry could not last forever. The dairying, mixed farming and fruit growing industries were the reason that Gympie never became a ghost town like many other goldfields. Newbery & Shambler always catered extensively for the man on the land, providing supplies and credit as necessary.

Today's newcomers to the city often comment on the bends in Gympie's main street, and also on the fact that the Central Business District is in a flood-prone area. As has been written previously, the main street led from a gully up to Commissioner's Hill and was originally lined with tents and crude buildings. There was no reason why the first alluvial miners should not camp close to where they were mining. The storekeepers, the hotel-keepers, boarding houses and so on set up business close by,

Perhaps it is necessary to recall that James Nash discovered gold in a gully which became known as Nash's Gully. The initial rush of new miners for alluvial gold was along this gully. The gully commenced in today's Chapple Street near today's Railway Yards and runs southwest, traversing what are now Power and Fern Streets, continuing behind today's Civic Centre and crossing the end of today's Mellor Street at the Town Hall.

The firm employed a large staff of tradesmen – Plumbers, Gasfitters, Gunsmiths etc. One advertisement stated – *We constantly employ an efficient staff of mechanics. Customers are recommended to leave their orders for Tanks, Stoves, Plumbing, Spouting, Electric Bell Hangers and every other class of work requiring good workmanship.* Among tools on offer were Spades at three shillings (30 cents), Crosscut Saws at six shillings and sixpence (65 cents) and Long Handled Shovels were two shillings and ninepence (28 cents) each.

The energy and drive that Newbery had in order to build up a large business from nothing, was similar to that of Shambler who, over the years, continued to expand a leading Gympie business.

Gold was discovered at nearby Kilkivan only eight months after the Gympie rush began. While the



When the Commonwealth Bank erected a new building in 1983 at 58 Mary Street (now a Chartered Accountant's – the Schuh Group), it was found necessary to sink the foundations down through creek gravel. That creek originally continued to Young Street, passing under Memorial Park to Nelson Reserve. The gully then continued under today's Bruce Highway, emerging at the Mary River just upstream from Kidd Bridge and close to the Albert Park Sports Complex, which had been the site of one of the previously mentioned Chinese gardens.

At first, crossing Nash's Gully was over one of two narrow bridges coming down from today's Caledonian Hill and Calton Terrace. One bridge was about a metre wide. The other 'bridge' was just a tree (see earlier photographs). The gully which had been excavated to seven metres deep, was filled in many years later so that what was originally the ground floor of the Town Hall is now the underground basement. In 2008, this 'Town Hall' became one of the main offices of the new Gympie Regional Council.

### **THE MARY RIVER and ITS FLOODS**

Andrew Petrie and his party originally called a river the Wide Bay River in 1842 when they journeyed up from Maryborough as far as today's Tiaro on an exploratory journey, but it was Governor Fitzroy who in 1847 directed that the river be called the Mary after his wife. (Lady Mary sustained fatal injuries following her fall from a carriage at Government House at Parramatta in 1847.)

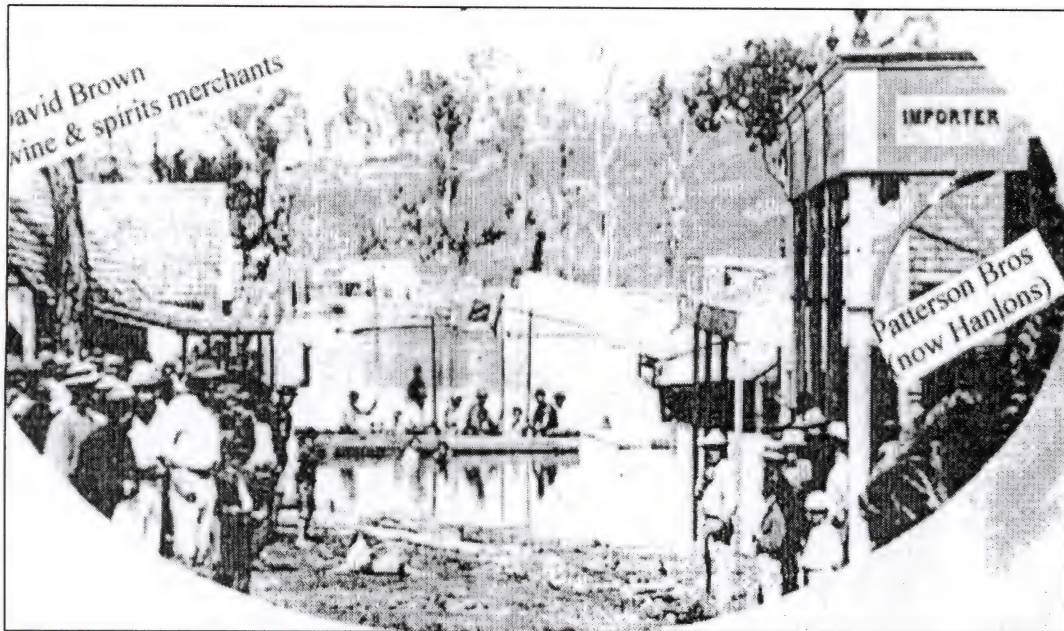
The waters of the Mary and its numerous creeks were an integral part of the Gympie Goldfield from the beginning of the settlement; it is the water that backs up the gullies which helps cause Gympie City's periodic and well-known floods. Water is of course, an essential part of most mining operations, and it was always available in Gympie – if not in the gullies after a storm, then from the river itself. However, the cost of carting large quantities of rock three or four kilometres or more to be 'washed' was quite expensive.



**The 1880 flood inundated large parts of the central area of Gympie (Photo taken from Clematis St looking up to Channon and Duke Sts corner.) (GL)**

Before white men found gold, Aborigines of the Kabi Kabi tribe lived in what is now called the Gympie Region. Their traditions told of one early huge flood which came up to particular trees in both today's Mary and Nash Streets. The first major flood recorded after white settlement was in 1870, the water reaching a height of 70ft 10ins (21.60 metres) above normal. This flood level was not beaten for another 20 years. (It is a fact that when the river level today reaches 18 metres, flood water commences entering today's main street; but the level of Central Mary Street was earlier raised by about two metres.)





**Mary Street during the flood of 1870 (KW)**  
**(The punt would be at where Mary and Monkland Streets cross today)**

The Gympie goldfield recovered from the devastating flood of 1870 and went back into the business of making money. The district's residents hoped it would be many years before they saw another big flood, but it was only slightly under five years before the Mary ran rampant again.



**Looking at Upper Mary Street after the 1875 flood. (KW)**

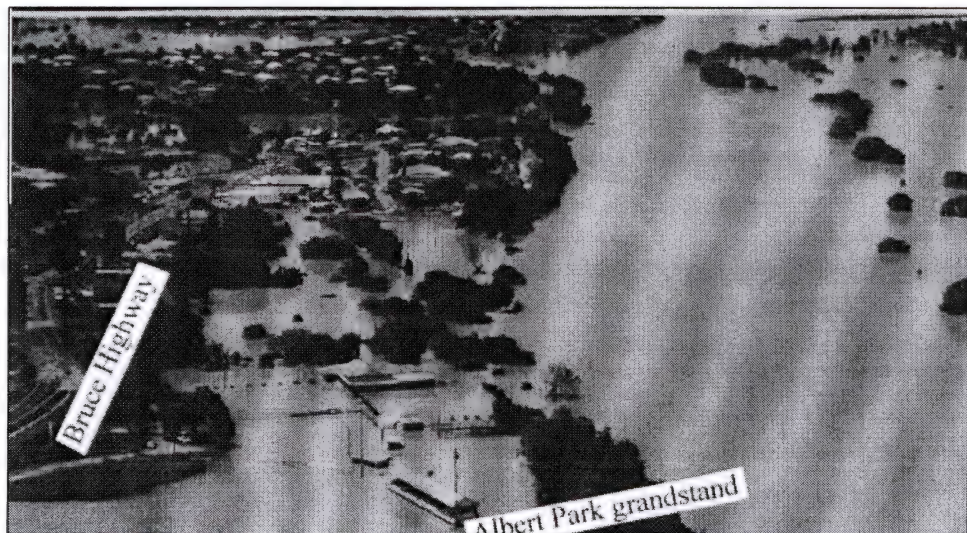
In those early days, no thought was given to formal town planning, the main street having its beginnings as a bush track through large trees close to the side of the creek. The far end of the street (away from the Nash's Gully) was in due course called Upper Mary Street, and held the banks, solicitors' offices and other large commercial enterprises. Then there was the central section - around Monkland Street and towards Nash's Gully. Further along and up to the Fiveways, the street was called Lower Mary Street.



On 4 February 1893 and then again less than two weeks later, floodwaters from the Mary River caused the greatest destruction in the recorded history of Gympie and also of downstream Maryborough. As well, there was tremendous flood damage throughout a large part of south-east Queensland with torrential rain and gale force winds lashing Gympie's rough settlement of shanties, slab huts and weatherboard homes. The town of Maryborough was of course, also badly affected by this and all later floods. In 1893, water entered and damaged many buildings close to the riverbank including Walkers Limited.

Two weeks later, deluging rain again resulted in another flood with the central part of Mary Street again being well and truly submerged. Pressure of the floodwaters fractured gas mains, Mary Street and adjacent streets having their gas lighting blacked out. When the flood waters receded, no doubt the gasfitters from Newbery & Shambler, and also from Sam Holloway's, were urgently required to repair the damage.

Gympie storekeepers extended credit to hundreds of farmers and other citizens whose houses and properties had been affected by the flood waters. The peak height on 4 February 1893 was 83ft 6ins (25.45m). That peak remained a record for over 100 years. On 17 February of the same month, the peak height of another flood was 21.08m. Down river at Maryborough, the peak exceeded 12 metres.



#### **Mary River, Gympie City - April 1989**

The flood was a calamity for the mines as well as for the town. Many of the shafts were below flood level and flood waters plunged down, destroying underground as well as surface workings, but most mines recovered after several years of hardship.

These days, ample notice of floodings is available to Mary Street shopkeepers from height recordings further up the Mary River. A day or so before water is expected, prudent owners make early arrangements to remove their stocks to such as halls and homes set on higher ground.



Many of today's visitors query why the city's bridges over the Mary River (the Normanby and the Kidd) have been built high above normal river level. For some years, on the outside wall of the office of Skill Centre Queensland (towards the higher end of



**Corner of Mary and Monkland Streets – 2008 - in dry weather.  
(Floods can rise over the Royal Hotel awning)**

Mary Street - at No. 214), there has been a Plaque which indicates the 1893 peak flood level at that spot. Visitors to Gympie (when they see the normal Mary River) find it difficult to believe what they are told about flood heights, especially in Mary Street, until they are shown that Plaque. Visitors also find it hard to understand how flood waters not infrequently can cover the awning of the Royal Hotel in central Mary Street at its corner with Monkland Street.

Further indications for visitors are the metre posts (to 27m) on the sides of Little Channon Street up from Kidd Bridge. For many years, the Widgee Shire Council provided a boat to convey passengers and goods across the flooded river from the lower end of Little Channon Street to the end of Stumm Road on the Southside.

Records show that storekeepers supplied the town's 1893 Flood Relief Committee with large quantities of food for distribution. As examples, up to 78 tons of flour and 18 tons of sugar were donated – as well as from items such as 500 blankets and 150 mattresses for people who had lost their homes. Farmers were also supplied with seed for vegetables and fodder crops.

It is recorded that when water, at 21 metres above normal river level, was in Mary Street in February 1893, the newspaper staff were still working to complete a newspaper. With Newbery & Shambler's shop premises being on the lower side of the Gympie Times Office, water would have been over a metre deep in the ground floor of the Newbery & Shambler shop. The Times subsequently reported that in the two February 1893 floods, 120 houses had been wrecked or lost.

Hardly had the effects of those 1893 floods passed away when a great financial panic set in throughout Australia. Bank after



**Little Channon Street – near Kidd  
Bridge - 1999**



bank throughout the colonies closed their doors to 'reconstruct'. Some however were never to re-open. Under these circumstances, the outlook for mining was extremely poor with many prospecting ventures closing down. Of course, the outlook for storekeepers was also far from good – especially for those who had customers with accounts outstanding, also for those citizens with no income to help pay for further provisions.

Notwithstanding everything, the town of Gympie survived both the 1893 floods (with many more later) and the failure of the banks. The following are taken from official Gympie flood statistics:

- \* Between 1870 and 1900, the flood peak was over 15 metres (50ft) on eight occasions.
- \* Between 1900 and 1930, the peak exceeded 15m three times.
- \* In the 30 years to 1960, the peak was over 15m on 9 occasions.
- \* Between 1960 and 1999, the peak exceeded 15m on 13 occasions with the February 1999 flood being called 'the Flood of the Century.'
- \* As to flood peaks over 20 metres, that height was reached five times in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and three times in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

There is however no particular time of the calendar year for Gympie floodings. From 1870 to 1999, there were 21 floods in the winter months of June and July, although only a percentage of such penetrated the business section of the city.



**Little Channon Streey (Kidd Bridge) Flood Boat - 1999**



**Kidd Bridge – Feb. 1999 (GT)**



An example of how Newbery & Shambler obtained work as Contractors from a large area of south-east Queensland is their contract with the *proposed Connolly's Pomona Hotel*. This new hotel was opened in 1913 after the previous single storey hotel had been burnt. Connolly's was a magnificent two storey building for the town, as it is today. The whole of the plumbing and the water works, with the lighting up of the hotel with acetylene gas, was carried out by Newbery & Shambler of Gympie.

With pride, appropriate acknowledgments were inserted in The Gympie Times of 7 and 12 February 1914, adding that Newbery & Shambler would send their plumbers and fitters to every part of the area between Brisbane and Gympie.

As well, the Newbery & Shambler firm employed Commercial Travellers to visit townsfolk and farmers over a wide area of south-east Queensland, providing samples of the goods available in the store, also seeking work for the firm's tradesmen. At this time, Newbery & Shambler were local agents for many well-known businesses such as the Massey-Harris Co. with that company's Automatic Milking Machines selling at seven pounds ten shillings (\$15).

Until motor vehicles became available, all deliveries by Newbery & Shambler's staff were by horseback or in horse-drawn vehicles.

From various Gympie Times notices, we can read about Newbery & Shambler's Home Delivery practice – but sometimes with unhappy results. In January 1900, the Times with its usual verbosity, gave full details of an incident involving a Newbery & Shambler delivery

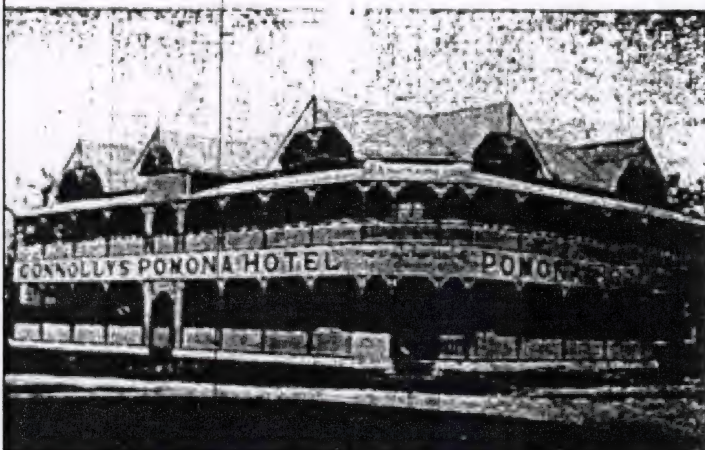
**Gympie and District Plumbers**

IF THE OWNER SAVED MONEY BY GETTING —

**NEWBERY and SHAMBLER**

TO DO THE PLUMBING AND GAS

THIS MAGNIFICENT HOTEL. IT WILL PAY YOU TO GET THEM TO DO THE WORK.



The Work of this Hotel was let to NEWBERY & SHAMBLER, who did the whole of the PLUMBING and WATER WORK, also the LIGHTING up with ACETYLENE GAS, which passed with credit.

We send our PLUMBERS and FITTERS to every Part of the District, between Brisbane and Gympie. Hundreds of Homes in our district bear the Hall mark of our Goods and Workmanship.

Some have the MEY'S SEPARATOR, the Leading Separator on the Market; others have TANKS, STOVES, FURNITURE, IRONMONGERY, CROCKERY, and MASSEY HARRIS IMPLEMENTS.

WE ARE AGENTS FOR MASSEY HARRIS CO. —

**Automatic Milking Machine, £7 10s, Brisbane**

THE "RIDG" MILKING PLANTS FITTED UP.

Every Class of VATER'S AGRICULTURAL AND GARDEN SEEDS.  
(Catalogues Free).

WE FURNISH for CASH or TIME PAYMENT.

Send your Orders for TANKS, SEPARATORS, and all other Requisites to —

**NEWBERY & SHAMBLER,**

THE LEADING AND OLDEST DISTRICT PLUMBERS.

Connolly's Pomona Hotel  
The Gympie Times - 12<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1914



boy. The young employee, Thomas Jewell, was delivering a basket of crockery to Mr du Rietz's house on the South Side. As Thomas was entering the gate, he attempted to lift his basket on to the gatepost. However the horse jumped, resulting in Thomas landing on the ground *suffering a severe shaking*. The Times went on to report that *all the crockery was broken and Thomas was conveyed to his home by Mrs Anderson*.

Newbery and Shambler employees had a run of misfortunes around that time. A week after Thomas had his accident *a youth named F Heideman was precipitated into the gutter when he had been attempting to mount the horse*. Later The Gympie Times reported on two more incidents. *Yesterday, while Mr A McGhie was doing business near the Lucknow Claim, he was thrown twice and considerably bruised. Even this did not terminate the series of accidents for shortly after dinner yesterday, Mr Webber, while mounting the same horse in Channon Street, was also thrown and suffered a cut knee and hands*. There is no record in The Times as to what Newbery & Shambler did with that trouble-prone equine.

Right from early times, the area of Gympie district called South Side - now Southside - was a popular residential area being across the river from the town. A number of business and professional men selected farming blocks on that side of the Mary. There they built their homes, some very substantial, and they established dairy and small crops farms in conjunction with their other activities. Apart from Architect Hugo du Rietz, there were Newspapermen A.G. Ramsay and Jacob Stumm, Solicitor F.I. Power and Photographer Anders Poulsen. Two outstanding riverside homes still stand today - Carinya and Gunabul. Both face the river flats, with today's access to these properties being from Power Road.



**Newbery and Shambler's Buggy shed in Myall St -  
late 1890s - photo taken from Channon St. (GL)**





Shamblers used a variety of postcards as promotions - post 1909.



**This Newbery & Shambler Furniture Department postcard c. 1914 - showing chairs hanging from the ceiling – including Austrian bent chairs, (at 7 shillings - 70c each)**

## STAFF RELATIONS

Over the years, a number of comments appeared in *The Gympie Times* regarding the cordial relationship between the Shamblers and their employees. One example of good staff employer/employee relations was on the occasion of the approaching marriage in 1884 of Mr W.H. (Bill) Shambler and Miss Ellen (Nell) Newbery. Nell was the daughter of the bridegroom's business partner Mr W.A. (Bill) Newbery. On the occasion of a staff party, reference was made to *the many good qualities possessed by the guest. All spoke in high terms of the good feeling which has always existed between the employees and Mr Shambler.*



Prior to the departure in 1900 of three Shamblers visiting England, the Social Notes Editor of The Gympie Times reported that *Mr Shambler, being desirous of meeting the whole of his employees and taking a formal parting, decided to entertain them in a right royal manner.* This he did, and during the evening a gold Maltese cross was given to him by one of his youngest employees, the cross being engraved - *Presented to Mr Shambler by his Employees - 1900.*

When W.H. Shambler's son Arthur, joined the Army to go overseas in 1915, the staff at another large gathering as a token of best wishes, presented him with a *handsome pocket wallet suitably inscribed.*

Years later in The Gympie Times of 3 January 1931, at the time of the depression, there was a report of the Shamblers' usual custom of a Christmas Eve get-together of staff and employees. Mr Edgar Shambler as head of the firm spoke of *the good feelings existing between all hands and hoped these little gatherings would develop the right spirit between all involved in the business.* Employee Mr E. Gambling spoke of the happy relations between employers and employees and, on behalf of the staff, presented Edgar and Arthur Shambler with *suitably engraved gold-mounted pencils.*

### JOSEPH WALTER SHAMBLER

J.W. ('Joe') Shambler (the author's grandfather and brother of W.H. (Bill) Shambler) was born at Crow Link Gap in Sussex, England in 1872. At the age of 17 years, he migrated ex Plymouth to Queensland. He was another son of Richard and Mary Shambler.

Of all Richard and Mary's five children, only Bill and Joe ever migrated to Australia but in mid-1903, their widowed mother Mary, at age 86, did come out for a brief visit to see her sons and their families. Bill, at his large store and the then self-employed Joe, were no doubt very pleased to see their mother again after so many years. However, her visit was rather brief as the elderly lady found the weather not to her liking although it was winter in south-east Queensland. She soon returned to the Old Country.



**Mary Shambler (nee Cutler), aged 84. Wife of Richard Shambler**



**Mary Shambler, aged about 64 (mother of Bill and Joe) with her grand-daughter Winnie (b. 1899). (Photo taken on Mary's visit to Gympie from England in 1903.)**





**Mary Shambler, nee Cutler,  
aged say 50, mother of Bill  
and Joe Shambler**

public of his availability. He also begged to state that his work will bear comparison with any on the field. Not long afterwards, he further advertised for an assistant – *Wanted at once – Strong boy for the Plumbing trade.*

Early in 1901, town water services were being connected to homes and businesses in Gympie. The then 28 year old Joe Shambler was a very practical tradesman and 'Jack of

Joe Shambler sailed on the 'SS Quetta' and disembarked at Brisbane on 15 September 1889 and then sailed on to Maryborough where he disembarked. Shipping records show his occupation as laborer and that he was – *passed to his brother W.H. Shambler* - to live with brother Bill and wife Nell at their home in Randall Street, Gympie.

The SS Quetta met with a tragic end six months later. On returning to England from a subsequent voyage, she was wrecked during a cyclone in the Torres Strait on the night of 28 February 1890 after striking a submerged rock and sank within minutes. Thankfully, 156 persons survived, but 123 lives were lost.

Working firstly for his brother in the Newbery & Shambler business, Joe as a teenager, was given every opportunity to learn all sides of the plumbing, gas and water-fitting trades.

After almost 12 years practical experience in the older brother's business, Joe went out on his own. In The Gympie Times on 11 December 1900, he begged to notify his numerous friends and the

**LICENSED WATER FITTER.**  
**Joseph W. Shambler**

Begs to notify his numerous friends and the public generally that he is still in Business, and is now prepared to receive Orders for any work such as Gas and Water Fitting, Bell-hanging, Locks, Metal Plate Work in all its branches, Tanks, Stoves, Stove Pipe, Spout and Down Pipe in all sizes, also Roofing by kind.

Having had 12 years' practical Experience in the employ of Newbery & Shambler, I beg to state that my work will bear comparison with any on the field.

Good Workmanship and Satisfaction guaranteed. A Trial solicited. Discount Cash.

NOTE ADDRESS—  
**POLLONIAN VALE,**  
Next R. L. Pring's Store.

W.S. having already laid a number of water Services here with satisfaction is still prepared to receive orders, and to proceed with the laying on of others. The public will do well to leave their orders for this and other classes of work with him, and so on a young beginner.

**Dec. 1900**

**Joseph W. Shambler**

Begs to notify his numerous friends and the public generally that he has commenced Business on his own account, and is prepared to receive Orders for any work such as Gas and Water Fitting, Bell-hanging, Locks, Metal Plate Work in all its branches, Tanks, Stoves, Stove Pipe, Spout and Down Pipe in all sizes, also Roofing by kind.

Having had 12 years' practical Experience in the employ of Newbery & Shambler, I beg to state that my work will bear comparison with any on the field.

Good Workmanship and Satisfaction guaranteed. A Trial solicited. Discount Cash.

**Licensed Plumber No. 2,**  
Issued November 30th, 1900.

NOTE ADDRESS—  
**POLLONIAN VALE,**  
Next R. L. Pring's Store.

Town orders left at H. Menadue's, Joiner, will receive prompt attention. Bankland orders to be left at M. J. Brien's Store.

**Jan. 1901**



all Trades.' Formal Certificates or Diplomas were not available in those days but his advertisements showed he was *Licensed Plumber No. 2*.

**FORCED**

To a Pressure of 200lbs. per square inch were the joints and connections of the first Water Service connected by

**W. Shambler,**  
**LICENSED PLUMBER,**  
**APOLLONIAN VALE.**

ON MARCH 1ST.

J.W.S., having already connected to the Pipe with great satisfaction, is still prepared to receive orders, and to proceed the laying on of others. The public do well to leave their orders for this and other classes of Work. Good Workman and Satisfaction guaranteed.

— A TRIAL SOLICITED. —

VES, TANKS, STOVE PIPE, SPOUTING, DOWN PIPE, and AIR PIPE IN ALL SIZES.

GAS and WATER FITTING, BELL-ANGING, GUNS, LOCKS, and METAL PLATE WORK in all its Branches.

prompt attention to all Orders, and Price reasonable. Estimates given for all classes of work.

### March 1901

lived at Crescent Road on Red Hill, next door to the Railway line to Brisbane and not far from her parents' family home. (Today's house on this site is No. 4.) It was there that the



**J.W. and Mrs S.J. Shambler**  
**(nee Pring) - married in 1895.**

Joe Shambler's advertisements in The Gympie Times indicated that he operated from Apollonian Vale, next to RL Pring's shop. (Pring was his father-in-law.) The advertisements stated that he was doing such work as *Gas & Water Fitting, Bell hanging, Guns, Locks, Metal Plate Work in all its branches, Tanks, Stoves, Stove pipes, Spouting and Down pipes of all sizes and Roofing of any kind.*

At the same time (January 1901) Newbery & Shambler advertised that they *had a New Man from the South with 14 years experience to Water Work.* The Newbery & Shambler advertisement continued - *Newbery & Shambler are both Practical Plumbers & Fitters, and supply nothing but best Materials & Workmanship.* A footnote added that - *We pay the Highest Wages, and the Public get the best value for all Work done by the old firm of Newbery & Shambler.*

In June 1895, at the age of 23, Joe Shambler married Sarah Jane (Janie) Pring at the home of the bride's parents. (That house now faces Pring Lane.) The marriage celebrant was the Rev. Chas Stead of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. Janie Pring was a member of the very well-known and highly respected Gympie storekeeping family on Apollonian Vale.

Joe Shambler and his wife Janie (nee Pring) first lived at Crescent Road on Red Hill, next door to the Railway line to Brisbane and not far from her parents' family home. (Today's house on this site is No. 4.) It was there that the family of four was born - Wesley, Harold, Thelma and Olive. In 1905, the family moved across the river to the South Side near Jones Hill; Joe Shambler continuing his plumbing business still operating from next to his father-in-law's Apollonian Vale store.

All his life, Joe Shambler loved music and shared his love in many ways with his family and within the community. For much of his life, he was involved in choirs often as conductor, and also as violinist, cellist and as vocal soloist.

In the donated Music Collection held in the Local History Room at the Gympie Regional Library, J.W. Shambler's name appears in many of the historical Music Programs, for example-

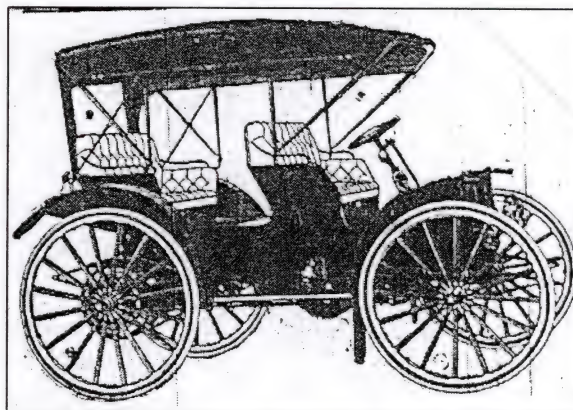
- 12 December 1901 - As a committee member and one of the three cellists in a 16 piece orchestra - Gympie Orchestral Society's function at the Theatre Royal.



- 27 November. 1902 - At the Gympie Orchestral Society's 27<sup>th</sup> Concert in the Theatre Royal. J.W. Shambler was one of two cellists.
- 3 July 1906 - Gympie Orchestral Society's concert with J.W. Shambler shown as cellist and Secretary of the Committee.
- 21 March 1907. Mr J. Shambler's quartet party was one of the entrants in the Gympie Philharmonic Society's Grand Concert.

In September 1900, the Gympie Times reported that Mr and Mrs J.W. Shambler were hosts at their Crescent Road home for members of the Surface Hill Methodist Choir. The occasion was a farewell to that church's Assistant Organist who was moving to Brisbane.

In March 1906, The Gympie Times reported on *a most successful organ recital and concert given by the Presbyterian Church Choir, the church on Red Hill Road being filled to capacity. The choir was under the baton of Mr J.W. Shambler and rendered a piece from Haydn's 'Creation', plus three anthems from Handel's 'Messiah', and one hymn written by S.S. Wesley.* The Times went on to state that *these heavy works showed careful practice and the interpretations were full of merit. One of the best items of the evening was the solo from Mr J.W. Shambler.*



**Motor Car – 1918 Model**

In the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the districts of Gympie and Widgee continued to expand. Census population figures showed 8449 for Gympie in 1891 and 11,959 for 1901. During 1910, a further rural area at Deep Creek (now Greens Creek) was opened up between Cedar Pocket and the Wolvi Range. Joe Shambler was one of the first six selectors there, each man taking 40 acres of scrub to develop as a dairy farm. Joe's 40 acres is now part of the Los' 700 acres dairy farm. Other selectors included Charles Donald, Archie Cameron and the Jeffreys.

It is difficult today to appreciate the hardships of Gympie's early farming days. The pioneer farmers needed to be men of courage, enterprise and stamina. However, the physical difficulty of carving a farm out of virgin bushland was not insurmountable to most of those pioneers. The settler such as Shambler, and each of his neighbors, had his axe, his strong back and the will to succeed. Also in some cases, he had a family to help. At that time – 1910 - when the Shambler family moved to Deep Creek, Joe and Janie had their four children, boys aged 14 and 12 and girls of 11 and 6.

At Deep Creek, the family lived for some time in a quickly erected slab hut – the beds being corn sacks strung between two pieces of bush timber. As soon as possible, the father erected a quite substantial home for the family. In those early days, the slab and shingle hut was made up of two rooms. The floor was earth and leveled with a mixture of sand and cow-dung with a roof of shingles. The slabs in the walls were not very close together, daylight and moonlight and cool winds coming through the cracks until mother and daughters lined the wall with old newspapers. The kitchen was an open fireplace with a kettle hanging on a chain. A camp oven would be resting on the coals.

Farming in the district particularly dairying, became a way of life, contributing to considerable economic growth. Cultivation of fodder crops was important to maintain a good milk supply from the dairy cattle and to keep up the strength of the horse used for



farm work and for transportation. Milking was always by hand as there were no milking machines or electric power for many years.

Olive, the youngest of the Shamblers, died in 2003 nine months before her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Throughout her life, she never tired of telling her children and her grandchildren her many memories of living at what she called Deep Creek and attending the Cootharaba Road Provisional School with two of her siblings. The older brother, Wesley, although still a young teenager, was required to work with his father to help establish the farm.

For all those pioneers at Deep Creek and elsewhere in the early 1910s, how to sustain their families until the farm became self-supporting was a major problem. Perhaps in the Shamblers' early days, there was a little grass to graze a few head of cattle. There were certainly trees to fell to provide timber and bark for living quarters, and surplus timber could be sold, the district having many timber mills.

An outside income was initially essential for most families. Some would-be farmers worked for the Lands Department on road making. Timber getting was also quite a big industry as the goldfield needed large quantities of timber. In Joe Shambler's case, he earned cash from his plumbing and gas-fitting business.

It was during the early dairying days that Mrs Janie Shambler started losing her sight from glaucoma. She became completely blind within 20 years but seeing her, even in her latter years, lighting a Primus (methylated spirits and kerosene), or washing and ironing, or peeling and cutting up a pumpkin, people would find it difficult to believe that she was totally blind. Janie died in Brisbane in 1958. She had been a lovely grandmother to a large family.

With the eldest son Wesley working on the block with his father, there was eventually a cash crop such as maize, although wallabies were always a serious problem while a farm was still unfenced.

In 1913 Joe Shambler left his wife and children working the dairy farm at Deep Creek, the farm being barely profitable. He moved to Buderim in order to build a house for his family. At the same time he was farming bananas and citrus. His plan was to make a much better income there for his family. About 1915, with the Buderim house completed, the family disposed of the dairy farm and shifted to Buderim living there until 1920 when they moved to Brisbane.

### **PRING FAMILY**

Richard Loram Pring, the father of Janie Pring (Joe Shambler's wife,) was born in 1837 in Devonshire. (Loram was his mother's maiden name.) He received his education in England after which he engaged chiefly in agricultural work. He migrated to Brisbane in



**Carting gold-bearing rock to the stampers - 1870s.**



1863 and in the following year, married Eliza Edwards in Brisbane. Two children were born there. Seven other offspring were subsequently born at Gympie, although three of them died while still children.

Immediately on hearing of the breaking out of the Gympie goldfield in 1867, the small family journeyed to the field, the father initially engaging in the mining industry with the family probably living initially under canvas. For some five years, he conducted a carrying business. A lot of men made their living in those years with their horse and dray - carting wash dirt (gold bearing rock) from shafts to crushing plants or to water.

Pring was a well regarded citizen of Gympie at all social levels right from his arrival on the goldfield at the age of 30, until his death in 1905 at the age of 67. He had been recovering from a horse incident when he contracted pleurisy from which he did not recover. The Gympie Times reported that the *funeral cortege consisted of over 300 horse-drawn vehicles and upwards of 300 horsemen. In addition, there was a large body of pedestrians forming a solemn procession, considerably over one mile in length.*

R. L. PRING,  
GENERAL STOREKEEPER,  
SEEDSMAN & PRODUCE DEALER,  
APOLLONIAN VALE, GYMPIE 1885

<b>APOLLONIAN VALE, GYMPIE.</b> <i>Spillar</i> <span style="float: right;"><i>Nov 12 1898</i></span>	
<b>Dr. to R. L. PRING,</b> GENERAL STOREKEEPER, SEEDSMAN & PRODUCE DEALER	
CUCKERY INMONGERY WARE, HOUSEWARE, &c.	<div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;"> <i>1 Lin R. Oil</i>  <i>Paid R. L. Pring</i>  <i>for dr.</i> </div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;"> <i>7/3</i> </div>

#### Invoice - 1898

The Times journalist continued that *Pring had always taken a keen interest in the welfare of the town and will be missed in many quarters. He was a great advocate for the temperance movement and he held prominent positions in several lodges.* Pring also had an active interest in the Gympie Agricultural Mining and Pastoral Society (now the Gympie Show Society.)

Pring was a member of the first committee of 12 men who met in late 1868 to arrange the erection of a wooden Wesleyan Methodist Church building to face Reef Street to replace the first church building built of bark. His name was recorded as one of the original Trustees on the first Title Deed for the land and he continued as an active committee member of the church all his life. Pring had always been a lay preacher and also a Sunday School teacher.

Pring was obliged to move from his first general store when the land was acquired by the Railway Department. In 1881, when he was aged 44, Richard and Eliza Pring re-opened their Golden Crown Store further up Apollonian Vale across from the Australian



Hotel. For many years, they conducted that store with their family. They sold a wide variety of goods, Pring advertising in 1885 as *Grocer, Seedsman, Produce Dealer & General Storekeeper*.

From one Aldine History of Queensland – *At Richard Pring's Golden Crown Store*, we find that the large store is possessed of every facility for the good conduct of an extensive business, for the furtherance of which is kept a comprehensive and valuable stock.... Mr Pring suffered a great loss on two occasions within two years.... Fires had originated in the neighbouring tenement.

The next photograph shows the vicinity of the Pring's home. Originally it faced Apollonian Vale, but with the extension of the railway to Brisbane, and the consequent resumption of land, the house then faced Pring Lane, as it still does.

1. Front garden, resumed by Railway Dept in late 1880s.
2. Joe and Janie Shambler's first home – Crescent Road.
3. Railway underpass.
4. Original Church of Christ, now Witham Theatre.
5. Chinese gardens – Chow Lam.
6. No.3 North Phoenix Mine.
7. Another mine
8. Primitive Methodist Church (now the site of the Band Hall).
9. Presbyterian (now Uniting) Church.
10. Apollonian Hotel (shifted to Boreen Point in the 1980s).
11. Oddfellows Hall
12. Mullock heap – from a mine nearby.



Over his lifetime, R.L. Pring was known as a great gentleman and he set a fine example to his children and his grandchildren. Pring's wife Eliza died in Brisbane in 1915 at the age of 76 years. Her remains were returned to Gympie by rail with the funeral to leave the railway station on the arrival of the 1.35pm train.

The Prings had a large family. Janie, who married Joe Shambler, was their second daughter. The youngest of the nine children was Samuel. He was born in 1880 and in September 1921, he married Elsie Maude Broad, a member of a very well-known family. Early in his life, Sam had worked with his father in the 'Golden Crown' general store on Apollonian Vale. In due course,



Janie Pring, aged 5. b.  
1872




Sam and one of his brothers acquired a dairy farm at Amamoor, an expanding area in the Mary Valley. Later when Sam and Elsie built a shop in Amamoor, the farm was let out on a share farming basis. At Amamoor, Sam and Elsie were recognised as a very valuable part of the community for over 16 years.

Sam moved to the Gympie's Cooinda Home for the Aged in 1971. In *Profiles of People* in The Gympie Times in March 1973, he was described, at age 93, as *one of the most popular members of the Cooinda Home family*. Up to the time of his death, he had been recognized as the oldest native-born person still living in Gympie. Sam Pring died at Cooinda in 1974 after living there for four years.

## NEWBERY & SHAMBLER

The following is yet another example of the way that journalists recorded 'news' in days gone by. It is part of a report concerning Samuel Pring when he was about 15 years old. Sam and his friend Herbert Edwards were cyclists who came to grief when riding down Slaughter Yard Hill. The newspaper reported that the boys were *following too closely behind a dog cart and when the driver pulled up suddenly, the cyclists dashed into the back of the cart. Young Sam needed three stitches on the forehead, with Herbert getting off with a sprained shoulder from being thrown in the gutter.*

THE GYMPIE TIMES.  
THURSDAY JULY 15, 1897.



**IDEAL HOUSE**  
TANKS.  
STOVES.  
GUNS.  
BATHS.  
SPOUTING.  
TINWARE.  
POWDER.  
SHOT.

An Efficient Staff of Plumbers, Gasfitters Gunsmiths and Ironworkers constantly employed.

Barb and Plain Wire, Dynamite Fuse, and Caps,  
IN LARGE OR SMALL QUANTITIES.

WIRE NETTING, ALL THE BEST TOOLS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION AND FIRST QUALITY GOODS AT LOWEST PRICES CAN BE OBTAINED AT

**NEWBERY AND SHAMBLER,**  
MARY STREET GYMPIE.

**NEWBERY AND SHAMBLER,**  
THE LEADING IRONMONGERS, PLUMBERS, ETC.

Have Just Landed  
Special Lines in  
**Wire . . . Netting,**  
GUNS,  
Ammunition, Cutlery,  
China, etc., etc., etc.

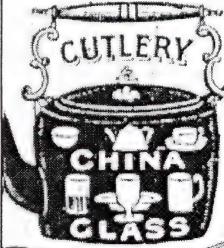
And the following prices  
will convince you that  
we are offering

**EXCEPTIONAL VALUE.**

Pafl. Compare Prices. We Lead and Others Follow. But none give Better Value

**NEWBERY & SHAMBLER, Mary Street 1896**

**NEWBERY AND SHAMBLER**  
ANCY and Ornamental **GLASSWARE** to Gympie to Select from!



**CUTLERY**  
**CHINA**  
**GLASS**

Bohemian Glassware!  
Doulton T. Hotware!  
And LANCY TEA SETS, CHINA  
TEA SETS, CHINA, CHINA, CHINA,  
TOILET SETS, CHINA, CHINA,  
TEA SETS, CHINA, CHINA, CHINA,  
Full Dinner Services from 25 to 100  
TOILET SETS, CHINA, CHINA,  
Splendid Assortment and Exceptional  
Value in CUTLERY of Every Description  
and ENAMELWARE

**OUR BLOCK TIN GOODS**  
Made in our own factory, and Guaranteed to be the Best and Most  
DURABLE at present offered to the Public.

And you get the BEST VALUE in TANKS, KITCHENS, PLUMBERS, and  
GUNS, and every class of work requiring Good Workmanship.

**COMPARE our PRICES before PURCHASING Your Xmas Goods.**



MARY STREET

Gympie, Nov 19 1898

**Newbery and Shambler,**

Ironmongery, Gasfitting, and Plumbing in all their branches.

IMPORTERS OF KITCHEN RANGES, GUNS, Etc.  
Repairing Guns and Making of Tanks is with us a Speciality.

Strict Monthly Accounts. . . . . A Choice Selection of Glass and China always on hand.

TO ORDER ENTER OUR SHOWROOMS. . . . . COLLECTIONS INSTANT.

To Account Rendered

4.6

3.0

7.6

PAID  
19 NOV 98  
WITH THANKS  
NEWBERY & SHAMBLER

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1897

GREAT SUCCESS OF

**Incandescent - Burners,**

Which REDUCES GAS BILLS more than One Half; GIVES  
TRIPLE THE LIGHT, LESS HEAT, and are suitable for  
CHURCHES, MINES, and PUBLIC HALLS, and are fitted by  
NEWBERY & SHAMBLER, at Low Prices.

FRESH ARRIVAL OF

Earthenware, Tinware, Glassware, and Brushware.

Patent Noiseless KEROSENE STOVES reduced to 20s.  
MEAT SAFES, all sizes, from 7s 6d.  
TUBS and BUCKETS, own make, strong and heavy—Brisbane  
Prices.  
HAY RAKES, Hay Forks, Scythes & Handles, & Reap Hooks.  
LAWN MOWERS, splendid value, from 32s 6d.  
PROSPECTING PANS, 1s; TIN BOWLS, 6d each.  
PEA RIFLE CARTRIDGES, 1s per box of 100.  
PLOUGHS, just landed—Brisbane Prices.  
CHAFF CUTTERS, Corn Shellers, and Corn Crackers, all sizes.  
BASKETS, including Cloth, Bait, Lawn, Hutchers, and  
Market, all sizes.

**TANKS & STOVES**

BEST MAKES ALWAYS ON HAND.

BY BURNT LIME SUPPLIED IN ANY QUANTITY

umbers, Fitters, and Tinsmiths.

Constantly Employed; and Every Satisfaction given by

**NEWBERY AND SHAMBLER**

MARY STREET, GYMPIE.

On 1 July 1899, The Gympie Times printed its large half-yearly Commercial Review as a Supplement. In that paper, Newbery & Shambler were described as *having an excellent reputation for their reliability and competency as tinsmiths and plumbers*. The firm was said to hold probably the largest stock in Gympie and the firm's workmanship was *synonymous with stability and neatness*.

The Supplement's writer went on to state that the front part of the store contained a magnificent collection of goods representative of many countries. (It should be remembered that at that time, Australia did not have a large



manufacturing industry.) At the rear of the factory, it was said that the visitor *would be attracted by the activity and smartness of the assistants as they pursued their work.*

The journalist then went on to comment on other items – some charming dinner sets, many travel trunks, a large stock of McMurdo's Lime Fruit Juice which *was exceedingly popular as a summer beverage.* The reporter saw miners' tools, field tools, explosives, detonators, ropes, paints, rabbit and fowl fencing, as well as a great array of water tanks of different shapes and sizes, and farmers' implements for every kind of cultivation.

Thursday May 6, 1897

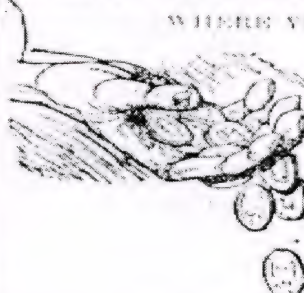
**For Guns, Revolvers, Rifle**

— EVERY OTHER SPORTING REQUISITE

**NEWBERY AND SHAMBLER**

WHERE YOU WILL OBTAIN THE BEST VALUE

MONEY IS SLIPPING  
THROUGH YOUR FINGERS  
UNLESS YOU SEND FOR  
**OUR NET PRICES**



Wire Netting  
From 5d. 6d.  
Sharps, 2s.  
Crescent Saws,  
4d.  
Long-handle Saws,  
2s. 6d.  
Six Varieties  
Axes from 1s.

Agencies held by Newbery & Shambler in 1899 included Incandescent Gas lamps, Sharples Cream Separators, Peerless Steam Cookers and the *largest Insurance Company in the world.* It was said that the Sharples Separators were *rapidly obtaining a great name within the dairy industry in the southern colonies as well.* The contrivance called the Peerless Steam Cooker consisted of *seven chambers in block tin, being supplied with a copper bottom and could cook a whole dinner at the one time.*

The Times Supplement concluded its write-up on Newbery & Shambler by stating that *the firm had costly and ingenious apparatus in the factory and theirs was one of the most representative businesses of its kind in Queensland out of Brisbane.*

Other Gympie businesses which were reported upon at considerable length in that Commercial Supplement included —



**Sharples' Cream Separators**

Are superseding all other makes.

The Best, Simplest, and Most Efficient Cream Separator.

It is the CLEANEST Skimming Machine

HAND AND POWER MACHINES in all sizes

BOILERS, ENGINES, PUMPS, CHURNS, &c.

**Newbery & Shambler.**

MARY STREET, GYMPIE, Local Agents.

Liberal Terms given to purchasers.

Send for Price Lists and Catalogues.

THE SHARPLES' CREAM SEPARATOR & DAIRY SUPPLY COMPANY, Limited.

Gympie Times – Oct/Nov/Dec 1899

**Wm J Miller**, Saddle-, Collar- and Harness-maker,  
**Hood & Balthes**, Tailors and Outfitters, and  
**Wilson & Farrar**, Tobacconists and Hairdressers.



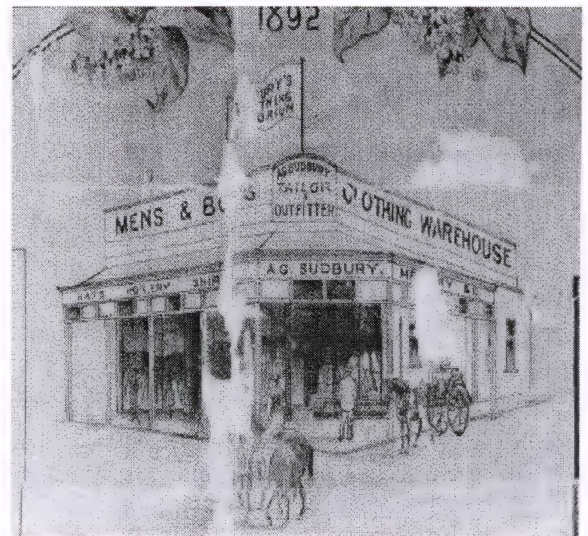
The advertisement for the latter partnership stated that *the brain-tired man of sedentary habits, as well as the laborer, at the end of a hard day's work, is soothed and feels more kindly towards his fellow beings after a few whiffs from a pipe or cigar.* The 'announcement', (1899) ends with the comment – *It is a delightfully open question as to whether smoking is injurious or not.*

In December of that year, the Gympie Times issued its Christmas Supplement. The Supplement mentioned that just recently, Newbery & Shambler had acquired the adjoining premises. That site was on the corner of Mary and Monkland Streets. Since 1892, it had been occupied by Mr A.G. Sudbury for his Mens & Boys Clothing Emporium. That corner block was therefore the second building occupied by the expanding Newbery & Shambler business.

In 1909, after Shamblers moved further along Mary Street, substantial changes were made to the frontage of that building at the corner of Monkland Street. From the 1930s until 1998, the building was occupied by The Medical Centre. Today as 197 Mary Street, it is shared by Petersen's Real Estate and a Hair Studio.

Those 1899 journalists were verbose by today's journalistic standards. Yet, the following description of Newbery & Shambler, rather lengthily gives an indication to us, over 100 years later, of the size of the business.

*In introducing to our readers the above photo, wrote the Gympie Times reporter, we are giving an illustration of what is known as the most prominent and leading business house of its kind on the goldfield.*



**Cnr of Mary and Monkland St - the second building occupied by Newbery and Shambler, today occupied by a Real Estate firm.)**



**Newbery and Shambler's first store in Mary St - 1880s, with some staff in front. The business was opened in 1882 and extended into the neighbouring shop in 1899 (GT - 23 Dec 1899)**



The well-known names of Newbery and Shambler are familiar to every household in Gympie and district. The business was started 17 years ago by Mr Newbery who carried on for 11 years when Mr Shambler joined him. Three years later, Mr Newbery retired through ill health, Mr Shambler then became Managing Partner and from that time forward, rapid strides have been made. (Bill Shambler was of course, the son-in-law of Mr Newbery. The latter would have continued to have some influence on the business.)

*Too much cannot be said of Mr Shambler for the tact and ability displayed in building up such a fine business as they now possess. It is still expanding, and a few months back, it was found necessary to acquire adjoining premises.*

*To build up and maintain such a large business demands a fine judgment, a keen knowledge of the requirements of the people and above all, an unwavering determination to keep only the best of everything and to sell at a reasonable profit.*

*As tradesmen, they occupy the premier position both having acquired a valuable experience of many years standing. They employ a large staff of plumbers, fitters &c &c and give estimates for every class of work..... Their workmanship is synonymous for stability and neatness.*

*The windows of this establishment display a valuable collection of goods. There is great art in decorating such large and fine windows and this seems to have been well studied by the employees. It can be truly said that their frontage is worthy of a metropolitan house.*

*The premises are situated in the centre of Mary Street and have a frontage of 62 feet by 70 feet deep – a most prominent position. In walking through, one is attracted by the activity and smartness of their staff as they pursue their different callings. Nothing has been spared in making this one of the most representative businesses of its kind in Queensland.*

*Throughout its career, the firm have endeavored to forward their business on lines founded on the highest commercial precepts, acting on the determination that the best way to increase their own interests was to study the interests of their customers. The result has been seen in the increased and large volume of trade which is continually drifting their way. They can be safely recommended to the public as a most reliable House.*

By today's standards, the wording of some of the Newbery & Shambler advertisements and news items is quaint. Nevertheless they give us a good idea of what life was like in Gympie in days gone by. The following are two examples of 'News Items' referring to the W.H. Shambler family:

In 1897, the News & Notes column of The Gympie Times had a long story of what appeared to be a deliberate attempt at arson at the home of Mr & Mrs W.H. Shambler in Randall Street. Mr Shambler had been awakened at 5.30am by the smell of kerosene. On getting up, he found the house full of smoke. *Flames were making their way up from under the house but were speedily extinguished.* The article then went on at great length to describe how the perpetrator of this

**The Commonwealth  
Combination**

Comprising Chest of Drawers, Wash-  
stand, and Duchess

Sep 1903

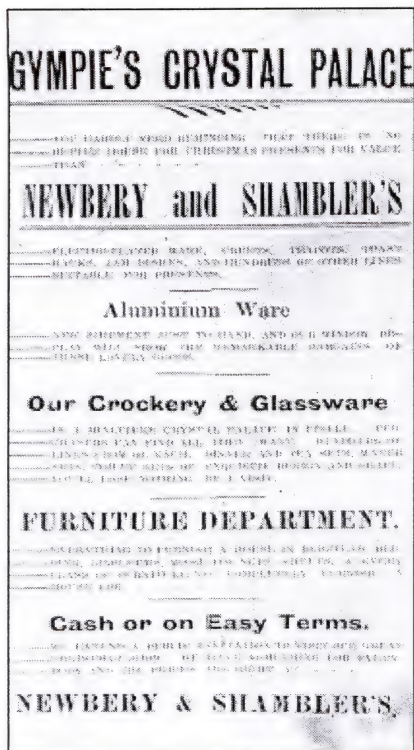


Made expressly by NEWBERY & SHAMBLER and sold fully equipped as one  
of the class features of the 1903 Exhibition. The Company's Sales-Staff  
in Typewriting and Printing is also available from

**Newbery & Shambler.**

**Gympie Times Sep 1903**





**Times Dec 1911**

only new furniture. They *did not sell secondhand furniture – re-stuffed and re-polished*, nor did they sell secondhand bedsteads, pointing out that *some people bought old bedsteads at auction sales and just re-painted them*.

In January 1901, when Gympie's Town Water Supply was being put in, Newbery & Shambler advertised to Ratepayers for this work. Good work and good material at the lowest price was guaranteed with punctuality. The firm emphasized that they *did not employ cadgers but only practical men who were Licensed Plumbers*.

Then in February, The Gympie Times reported that water at the town's Water Works was expected to be turned on in a few days time. In their advertisement, Newbery & Shambler urged people who had not already left their orders to do so for the following reasons. They employed the largest staff of practical men and they carried the largest stock. They paid the highest wages and *can serve your interests better and cheaper than any other Gympie firm*.

The Gympie Times also reported that Newbery & Shambler were the *successful tenderers for the whole of the plumbing, ironwork, water fitting and gas fitting at the proposed Court House, this being the largest contract ever undertaken by any Gympie firm*. (This building was later known as the Old Lands Office. Today it is the Australian Institute of Country Music.)

As to Gympie's Annual Shows, the practice faded later in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century (apart perhaps from motor vehicles and large items of machinery) for retail shops to have lavish displays at the Annual Show. One hundred years ago, it was normal practice for many local businesses to have very big displays at each Show. In 1901, Holloways won a special

*diabolical act must have planned his attempts at burning the house also the stable and buggy house at the rear*. Evidence of this 1897 fire is still visible on the stumps of the house 100 years later.

In May 1913, the Gympie Times reporter told how Mr and Mrs Shambler and their youngest daughter Win (then aged 14), when driving round the Horseshoe Bend, *met with a severe mishap, occasioned by their spirited pony bolting after taking fright at a goat cart*. *The sulky ran against the old 2 North Victory mullock heap, throwing the occupants to the ground*. While Miss Shambler escaped unhurt, Mr and Mrs Shambler were *rather severely injured*. *They were taken to a nearby residence where first aid was rendered pending Dr Morris being called*. The journalist was happy to report that all three were later conveyed home by (horse) cab. Such a detailed report on a relatively minor road incident would not appear in today's Press, let alone in such detail.

Newbery & Shambler continued to expand year by year. In the early 1900s, they emphasized that they sold



**Gympie Show display – 1901, with Mr W.H. Shambler on right hand side. (GL)**



prize for their display of bicycles, including one *built especially for Australian roads*. Newbery & Shambler received first prize for the best collection of implements and machinery

Newbery & Shambler always displayed a great variety of first class furniture and furnishings in their shop. In January 1904, their advertisements indicated that buyers could fully furnish a three-roomed cottage for \$29.40 (in today's decimal currency) and a four-roomed house could be completely furnished for \$48.80. Ten years later, in April 1914, with the effect of inflation, all the furniture required for a four roomed house comprising drawing room, bedroom, dining room and kitchen was available from Newbery & Shambler for \$85.40. This was a substantial increase from the \$48.80 of 10 years earlier. *Artistically and exquisitely designed furniture with a Cosiness, a Brightness and a Happiness surround all homes furnished by Newbery & Shambler*. An easy confidential credit system was available.



**Horse drawn vehicles in Upper Mary St, with delivery vehicles in front of the Newbery and Shambler building- early 1900s.**

always been conducted at the corner of Monkland Street and at central Mary Street next door to the then (and the present) Gympie Times offices. However, after paying a considerable amount of rent over the years, Bill Shambler had for a long time, been wanting to acquire a building of his own – preferably further along Mary street, out of the reach of flood waters. His opportunity came in 1909 when he purchased premises from the Estate of the late James Woodrow.

We look some years ahead to further indicate the effects of inflation. In 1935, Shambler's sold their business to Abdy Brothers, and Abdy's advertisement in that year was for three rooms to be furnished for \$67.75. That was a big contrast to the 1904 and 1914 prices.

Back in 1903, Newbery & Shambler were offering farmers and selectors Massey-Harris Mowing Machines, Ploughs and Hay Rakes, the Australian firm of Massey-Harris being called the *Implement Makers to the World*. Time payment terms were one third on delivery, one third at 10 months and one third at 22 months. All implements were guaranteed to be at Brisbane prices - so why bother to order goods away from Gympie?

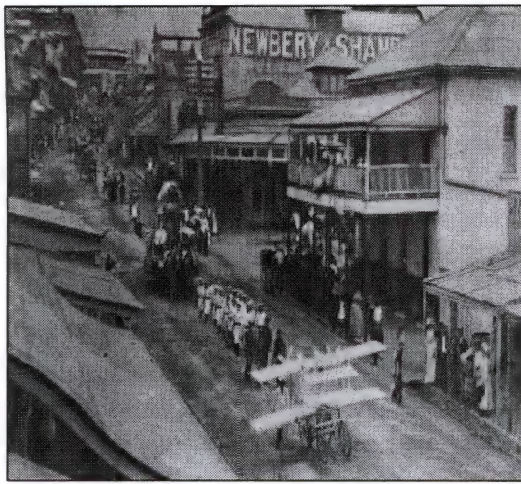
Newbery & Shambler's large business

had



**1905. Perhaps another lodge procession. (JOL. 79499)**





**1910 – Shop Assistants' Charity Carnival Parade- one mile long.**



**1910 Another procession, Cnr of Mary and Monkland St. (GL)**



**1890s**



**1992 Flood**



**This building was purchased by W.H. Shambler in 1909 and occupied by Shamblers until 1935**

The Woodrow family had arrived in Maryborough from England in the early 1860s. In 1863, Thomas Woodrow set himself up as a bricklayer, then as a general merchant.

Maryborough's population at that time was said to be around 1900. When gold was discovered at Gympie, Thomas immediately sent his son James, aged 18, to manage a Gympie branch of "*Woodrow's General Merchant Business.*" The Woodrows erected a wooden store from which they sold groceries and goods required by the miners.



**WOODROW & SON,**  
**GROGERS, IRONMONGERS,**  
**Produce Merchants & General Importers,**  
 Agents for NOBEL'S HAMBURGH DYNAMITE,  
 COULT'S ACETIC ACID.

W. & S. beg to draw special attention to their direct importations, as  
 "Flour-de-lis," "Quetta," "Duke of Buckingham," "Duke of  
 Land," "Dorinda," and to arrive per "Duke of Argyll."  
 Ac., consisting of—

Cross and Blackwell's and W.  
 Carrants, Eleme, &c.  
 Glass, Earthenware, and Miscellaneous Balmis  
 Car...  
 ...and China  
 ...Brass Foundry, Carpenter's Rim Locks  
 Matheson's and Seeley's Edge Tools  
 Gospel Oak Corrugated Iron, 6, 7, 8, 9, & 10ft.  
 G.I. Tube, Round and Oval, G.I. Buckets  
 Fencing Wire, S.S. Steel, & D.I. Fuses  
 Fastenings, Hollows, Bricks  
 Traction Ranges and Season Light Cooking Stoves  
 Linseed Oil, Boiled and Raw, White and Red Lead  
 Mixed Paints in 1 and 2lb Tins  
 New Season's Tins in 4-Chests and Boxes, or "Airtie"

1885

TELEPHONE No. 21

**NEWBERRY & SHAMBLER,**  
**GENERAL IRONMONGERS,**  
 CONSULTING, PLUMBERS, WATERFITTERS,  
 GASFITTERS & TINSMITHS  
 MARY STREET, GYMPIE,  
 QUEENSLAND

Feb 26 1910

Alphas Burton Underhill  
 Wm. Gynald a

To Account Rendered

Feb 1 14 bars 20 8  
 Main wine 99 0  
 6 bars 12 9  
 Barb. wine 4 19  
 Rascage 8 4

1 14 16 4

1910

One night in 1877, a gunpowder explosion resulted in a dramatic fire which razed Scott's store next door and some sheds at the rear of Woodrow's business. A new building was subsequently erected with James Woodrow conducting his provisions store there until his death in 1909.

In 1985, the Gympie and District Historical Society Inc. reprinted "Gympie's Jubilee." It had been a supplement to The Gympie Times of 16 October 1917.

**GYMPIE'S LANDMARK!**

**Where the Nugget was Found.**

**SHAMBLERS LIMITED**  
 (Late Woodrow's)

In Building a Solid Foundation, and after 20 years in the Hardware Business finds them self flourishing

**Grocery and Provision Store!**

This New Venture has proved a great success under the Management of Mr. CHAS. O'BRIEN, a Gympie Native, with 25 years' experience in the Grocery trade. They are now UNIVERSAL PROVIDERS, and Groups can be accommodated on having such on Their-side Firm.

They deal in Ironmongery, Groceries, Glassware, Furniture, and now General Grocery, besides being the Leading Hardware in the District.

They have also a similar Store at Gympie, which embraces all branches with the Grocery Department added, under the able Management of Mr. DEET MARSH, a most capable Manager.

The Two Businesses are a land mark in the District, and

**SHAMBLERS LIMITED**  
 is a household word with

W. H. SHAMBLER, Governing Director.  
 E. W. SHAMBLER, Managing Director.



In 1896, James Nash wrote his own account of his finding gold in Gympie almost 30 years before. He wrote that after his first find, he had to visit Maryborough for a new hammer-headed pick. On his return, he *dug at the back of where Tattersall's Hotel* then was. (Tattersall's was destroyed by fire in 1985.) He then *camped about where Mr Woodrow's store* then was.

That Woodrow's-Shambler's Lower Mary Street building still exists and is today occupied by two large shops, one being a Discount Pharmacy. These are both now No. 24 Mary Street. If one today looks carefully at the total frontage, or at the rear of those shops, it is easy to see that Shamblers was a very big building. Even when noticing the size of today's exposed floor areas, we can perhaps visualize the total floor space in Shamblers. With the move to his own building, Mr Shambler's business was again expanded with three separate departments –

- \* *Ironmongery & Plumbing,*
- \* *Furniture & Furnishings and*
- \* *Crockery/Glassware/Fancy Goods.*



Late 1920's. Shamblers shifted to this Town Hall end of Mary Street in 1909. (KW)



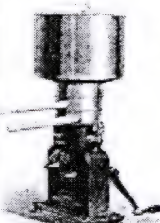
Another post card – post 1909, with horse-drawn delivery vehicle. (This was the original Woodrow's building.)







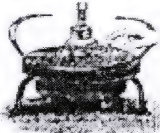
Newbery and Shambler's  
Great Opening Sale  
in New Premises  
On AUGUST 1st.  
New Goods Arriving Every Week




**NEW DOMO**  
Household Separator

£4 10s.  
£7 10s.

THE 'FIX' METHYLATED SPIRIT STOVE



The Famous J.R. STOVE



Price, 3s.

July 1909

Newbery and Shambler.

1, 6, 8 July 1909  
Newbery and Shambler's  
Great Removing Sale  
Greatest Record Sale  
for 20 Years  
AND STILL CONTINUES



The Old ad: This is the result of the time, being my time at Newbery & Shambler. They have got their stock and prices. Just see Newbery & Shambler, where you can see for yourself.

MR. MADDISON'S PIGS IN TUNING, BEHIND, HIGH, OFFICE, CHURCH, GLASS, AND THE OTHER LINES HAVE TOLD A GOLDEN TALK DURING OUR SALE.

Get our Cash Sale Furniture Prices and Save the 25 per cent charged for Time Payment.

WE HAVE THOUSANDS OF LINES LEFT TO CLEAR AND WE WANT TO SELL THEM AT HALF PRICE. DON'T WAIT FOR THE FINEST, BUT GET THE BARGAINS.

**STARTLING REDUCTIONS IN FURNITURE.**

Used Price	Sale Price
£ 4 0 0	£ 3 0 0
£ 3 0 0	£ 2 0 0
£ 2 0 0	£ 1 0 0
£ 1 0 0	£ 0 10 0
£ 0 10 0	£ 0 0 6

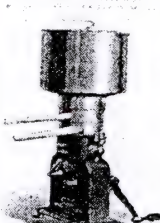
**CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.**

Used Price	Sale Price
£ 4 0 0	£ 3 0 0
£ 3 0 0	£ 2 0 0
£ 2 0 0	£ 1 0 0
£ 1 0 0	£ 0 10 0
£ 0 10 0	£ 0 0 6

WE GUARANTEE TO REDUCE EVERY ARTICLE, AS THE STOCK MUST BE SOLD.

Newbery and Shambler.


Newbery and Shambler's  
Great Opening Sale  
in New Premises  
On AUGUST 1st.  
New Goods Arriving Every Week




**NEW DOMO**  
Household Separator

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The Famous J.R. STOVE



Price, 3s.

July 1909

Newbery and Shambler.

### July 1909

**Jim Hood, Tailor & Mercer** had moved to new premises and was giving away a hat with every suit purchased for four pounds ten shillings (\$9) or more.

**John Cass of The Peoples Boot Store** had recently opened, just up from the original premises of Newbery & Shambler, although **Bytheway & Sons** were claiming that they had the largest stock of Men's Boots in the city.

**Bevan's** had updated their Mary Street Studio, but **Murray's Studios** claimed to be the leading Portrait Establishment outside the metropolis.

Another Tailor & Mercer – **H. Brocker**, had a Removal Sale, having shifted to premises known as the Co-operative Society.

On the other hand, **J. Goldburg**, 'the Best Cutter in the City,' advertised having a Splendid Assortment of Tweeds and Mercery.

**Rankin & Carey** on the corner of Smithfield and Mary Streets, (now the ANZ /Elders corner), were expecting 60 cases of Spring Goods – Millinery, Flowers, Feathers, Dress Silks etc from the 'SS Waipora.'

**Sam Holloway** stated that his Champion brand Maize Huskers Shellers and Baggers were a boon to farmers – 'making life just so easy.'

The advertisements for **Nobels Explosives** emphasized that none but Britain's white workman were employed at their factory in Glasgow.

**Patterson Bros** at their Upper Mary Street shop had special Bargains at their Great Reducing Sale – with quilts, blankets and rugs etc at under cost price.

And in order to 'remove impurities from the blood and make one's life worth living', **Chemist Wilkinson** was recommending *Dr Low's Concentrated Sarsaparilla* at three shillings (30 cents) per bottle.

**Cullinanes** were advertising their Special Spring Millinery Sale, and were opening up a large assortment of goods per *SS Carpentaria*.



## CULLINANES

Cullinan's was another large multi-department store in Mary Street. At one time, they had over 100 employees. Mr J.S. Cullinane had founded the business as early as 1868, that is, within a year of the establishment of the gold mining settlement. The business was converted to a limited liability company in 1903 and closed its last department in 1983 after 114 years of operations. Thankfully, the elegant Mary Street facade of the Cullinan's building was retained when major alterations were effected in 1983/4. At one stage, Cullinan's had a second shop on the opposite side of the street. That site is today occupied by a modern newsagency.



Cullinane's building was rebuilt and enlarged 1923.



1912 AUG 1

# CULLINANES Limited

FURNITURE  
AND  
FURNISHINGS

## BARGAINS

**Bedstead Bargains**  
ALL BEDSTEADS AT SALE PRICES

**Real Eider Down Quilts**

**A Bargain in Bush Rugs**

**Sale Price, 7s 11d**

---

**AN AMAZING MACHINE AT AN AMAZING PRICE £6-10-0!**



**The Very Best Sewing Machines**

**The Very Lowest Prices**

**CULLINANES LTD.**  
Gyngade's Big Bargain Centre.

August 1912

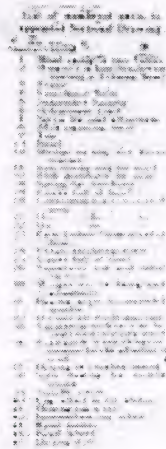


c1908 Mary St – unsealed. (JOL. No 47175)



**2008. Cullinane's building.**  
(The 1923 facade was retained when major changes were carried out in 1985.)



[illegible][illegible]

## DISCUSSION

HAS BEEN WELL PROVIDED FOR:

We Have a well selected stock of Blankets, and Rugs. Horse and Cow Rugs, and all kinds of Bedding.

of all kinds. Splendid selection of Bedsteads, Wardrobes, Washstands, and every other line to furnish a house.

Too numerous to mention. Hundreds of  
Lines to select from

Full Stocks to suit every taste. Full sets  
of Harness, and all kinds of Saddles

NEWBERY and SHAMBLER'S

**"CLEVELAND"**  
SEWING MACHINE.

YOU CAN  
GIVE A  
"CLEANLINESS"  
FOR 50  
CENTS

2000年12月28日 星期三 晴

**Newbery Shamble**  
Complete House Furnishers  
GYMPIE.







**Cartoons of Edgar and Arthur Shambler by "ESW" in the Gympie Times - 1931**



**Pre-wedding afternoon tea party to celebrate the marriage of Edgar Shambler and Liliash Fisher – 1912 (JOL.No 42176)**

Edgar and Lil's beautiful home - 'Finchley' - still exists and is in excellent condition. Several stories have been handed down about this house, which has generally been known in the community as 'the Shambler house.' One story is that a pawpaw plant growing there was a result of seeds originating in Hawaii; also there was a macadamia tree planted too close to the house, ending up growing partly under the house. Certainly, the heavy concrete roller, still a feature of today's front yard, indicates that games of Bowls (or was it Croquet?) were played on the front lawn.

In November 1915, Edgar's younger brother Arthur enlisted in the Army at the age of 25. In March the following year, he was given a *hearty send-off at his brother's home on Calton Hill*. A number of presentations were made including a gold ring and a leather money belt from brother Edgar and his wife, also a gift from his Newbery & Shambler employees. A Times report stated that *Shambler suitably responded. During the evening,*



*various games were indulged in, with songs and musical items adding to the enjoyment.* In March 1916, Arthur Shambler embarked from Australia as a Private on the Hospital Ship *Kanowna*. After a few months in Cairo, he departed from Alexandria for Marseilles. All his detailed Army records are, of course, in the Australian National Archives.



**Florence Shambler and Malcolm Simpson's Wedding  
Gympie, 18/04/1916**

Standing: May Fisher, Lil Shambler, Edgar Shambler, Florence Simpson,  
William Shambler, Percy Phillips, George Simpson, Winifred Shambler  
Seated: Mr. Hine, Ellen Shambler, Malcolm Simpson, Jane Simpson  
Seated in front: Gordon Simpson.

What a shock it must have been to Arthur's mother, Nell, when a few months after Arthur left for overseas service, she received a letter from Major Lean, Officer I/C Base Records, stating that her son had been admitted to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Aux. Hospital in Cairo (but it turned that Arthur had only suffered from influenza.)

In France, Arthur was transferred to the 6th Field Ambulance. (We could assume that he had learned to drive a motor vehicle back in Gympie. His father in due course, was a foundation member of the Gympie Automobile Club.) Later service saw Arthur with 1<sup>st</sup> Anzac Hqrs, with K. Supply Coy and with Aust Corps M/T Coy. His main work was *in stretcher bearing work, in ammunition waggon (sic) driving, and then with Staff.*

As with many other women in Gympie, the Shambler women made up parcels for dispatch to Gympie troops overseas. The Gympie Times in February 1916 had a report headed *Billycan acknowledged*. It referred to a postcard received by Mrs Edgar Shambler from Driver H.D. Wilson of the 1<sup>st</sup> AFA Brigade in Egypt. Driver Wilson thanked Mrs Shambler for the Christmas billycan of goodies which she had sent to Egypt. Wilson also forwarded a photograph of the tent occupants who, he wrote, were *going to have a real blow-out at Christmas.*

Army Archives also show that in September 1916 Arthur Shambler committed a 'Crime' in France. The crime was *trotting a horse on a paved road in the Field*. For this deed, he was *awarded three days loss of pay.*



In The Gympie Times Personal Column of 7 November 1916, Arthur Shambler's father (W.H.) is recorded as having received letters from his son. Arthur had written that he had just come out of the trenches where it had been hard work. The trenches, being so narrow in places, required the wounded to be carried out on the bearer's shoulders, rather than on stretchers. At the time of his writing, Arthur was somewhere in Belgium about 10 miles behind the lines. Family letters postmarked April in Europe had only recently been received by the father in Gympie in September.

Then in May 1919 (that is post-Armistice), The Gympie Times wrote up another story based on a letter which Mr and Mrs Shambler had received from their son in France. Arthur had written that he was still very busy in driving General Carruthers through parts of Belgium and France. He had driven 560 miles in the previous five days taking the General to various towns all round the coast. They had also visited concentration camps. *During the whole journey, only two punctures and a little spring trouble were experienced.*

Arthur subsequently received two Campaign Medals – the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. Decorations and Medals were also awarded by the Allied Powers at various dates to the British Forces for distinguished services rendered during the course of the campaign.

Army records also indicate that early in 1920, another decoration was conferred on *Shambler, No. 13654 Private Arthur Albert, 6<sup>th</sup> Motor Transport Company.* This decoration was conferred by the President of the French Republic, being the *Medaille d'Honneur Avec Glaives En Bronze*. The actual medal has regrettably been lost to the family over the years and enquiries of French diplomatic authorities, both in Canberra and in France, have failed to obtain the full wording of the citation.

Apart from periodic short leave periods spent in England, M/T Driver Arthur Shambler served more than three years in France as an Ambulance Driver or as a Staff Car Driver. He returned to Australia in September 1919 to receive his discharge after four years Army service.

In 1920, Arthur married Gertrude Shaw of Brisbane. In due course, they had two children – Ross and Joan. Today Joan the daughter, has a wonderful treasure in over 20 beautiful postcards that Arthur posted between 1915 and 1918 from England and France to Gertrude his friend in Brisbane. The opening words on these cards tell an interesting story over three or four years. The first commenced with 'Dear Gert' and later developed to 'My Darling Gert.'

Upon their marriage, Arthur purchased a house in Channon Street Gympie from Janet Glasgow Nash, widow of Capt. Alan Nash. (Captain Nash was the son of Gympie's founder James Nash. He was killed at Gallipoli during World War 1.) The house, now No. 7, still exists today next to KFC. When Arthur paid off his War Service Homes' Commission mortgage in 1928, records show that this land was then valued at 150 pounds (\$300) and the improvements (the house) were valued at 735 pounds (\$1470).


The Shambler family residences were –

- i. Edgar & Lil - Church Street,
- ii. Arthur & Gert - Channon Street,
- iii. Bill and Nell - Randall Street, also Horseshoe Bend.

The houses were once considered to be in the dress circle of Gympie residences with excellent views. These lots were popular building sites for prestigious homes in Gympie's early days and beautiful timbers were in ready supply. Most of the highly pleasing homes of those times featured the use of lovely red cedar that was so plentiful in the scrubs of Cootharaba and the Mary Valley.



On 1 July 1916, a limited liability company was registered styled Shamblers Limited, the formal purpose of the company being to *acquire the Ironmongery, Plumber and General Stores carried on by William Henry Shambler trading as Newbery & Shambler at Gympie, Imbil and Cooroy.*



**Cooroy. Cooroy. Cooroy.**

**High Cost of Food.**

**Shamblers.**

**SHAMBLERS LIMITED**

**GYMPIE & COORAY**

Archives Office records also show that by February 1917, shareholdings had been transferred so that the 12000 shares were held as follows:



William Henry Shambler	2000
Ellen, his wife	5998
Edgar, their eldest son	1999
Florence Simpson, eldest daughter	1999
Malcolm Simpson, son-in-law, (at that time, Bank Manager at the National Bank at Imbil)	1
Winifred Shambler, second daughter	1
M.M. Edwards, Solicitor of Brisbane	1
Arthur John Fisher, Butcher, Edgar's father-in-law	1

After Arthur's return from overseas war service, his share in the company was transferred to him and the share in A.J. Fisher's name was transferred to his daughter Liliias, the wife of Edgar. A larger parcel of shares was also transferred to daughter Winifred to even up the holdings of the four Shambler children.

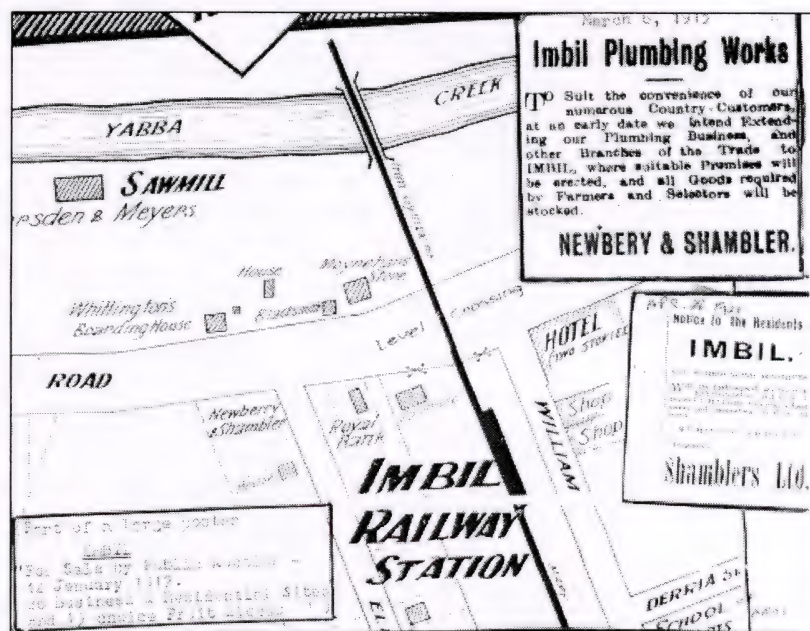
## IMBIL

After the War, the valley of the Mary River was changing. Imbil township owed its origin to the long looked for sale of Imbil Station in March 1914 when 300 buyers converged on the station homestead for the auction. A special train took more than 100 intending buyers on the new Mary Valley Line to Kandanga. (In May 1998, the popular Mary Valley Heritage Railway reopened the Gympie to Imbil line. On several days each week, tourists are now hauled out by the C17 steam locomotive - *The Valley Rattler* - or by a historic rail motor - *Red Rocket No.76*.)

From Kandanga train station, there was a fleet of motor vehicles, four-in-hands and other horse-drawn conveyances to take potential buyers to the auction at the Imbil homestead. Of the new one-quarter acre town blocks, Bill Shambler was one of the successful bidders, acquiring Lots 4A, 5A, 6A and 35. The average price of the 93 town allotments was 30 pounds (\$60).

By 1915, Newbery & Shambler extended their business to the fast developing Imbil area. Their store was called the Imbil Plumbing Works and they planned to sell goods required by farmers and selectors.

In 1917, the State Government conducted another Sale by Public Auction at Imbil - 86 *Business and Residential Sites and 19 choice Fruit Blocks*. On this Government's Plan of the



Part of a large poster – Imbil “For Sale by Public Auction – 12 January 1917. 86 business and residential sites and 19 choice fruit blocks.



whole area, Newbery & Shambler's block was shown on the corner of Yabba Road and Elizabeth Street, with the Royal Bank on the other corner of Elizabeth Street – just a short distance from the Imbil railway level crossing.

In April 1921, Shamblers Limited of Imbil was still advertising widely in The Gympie Times. One advertisement pointed out to residents of Imbil and the surrounding district that they (Shamblers) were the sole recognized agents in that area for Massey-Harris implements and separators.

A company had been formed in 1916 to bring Electric Light to Gympie but this company went into liquidation. In 1919, the Gympie City Electric Light Company purchased the assets of the former company and from then on, there was marked progress in the supply of electricity to the city.

During 1917, a *Grocery & Provision Store* had been opened within Shamblers' Mary Street shop. Shamblers were the first Gympie business to install a commercial display refrigerator for perishables in their Grocery Department. The large refrigerator was hauled up the still unsealed Mary Street on a bullock wagon with many onlookers providing advice and supervising the work. In 1932, the Grocery section was converted to Cash & Carry.

After being known as Newbery & Shambler since 1889 and operating under the name of Shamblers from 1916, the business continued to advertise that *our salesmen will call to collect your grocery order – small or large – and will deliver to any part of the city. Country orders to train Gympie – free.* The new Grocery Department was fitted out with the *famous Toledo Automatic Springless Scales which lights up at every weighing.*

In 1918, although the war was on, the company continued to advertise favorable stocks being held in all departments. A special purchase of 500 very strong cream cans *capable of standing many years of rough usage*, were selling at two shillings and sixpence (25 cents) under the Brisbane price. Shamblers were called by The Times *the largest and most up-to-date emporium in Gympie.*

**For Private Sale.**  
SAT. JAN 6 1920

**A First-class Family Residence**  
**on the Noosa River,**  
BETWEEN TEWANTIN AND NOOSA HEADS, ADJOINING THE  
RESIDENCE OF MAJOR D. E. REID, ESQ.

**Mr. W. H. SHAMBLER**

HAS decided to offer for PRIVATE SALE his SEASIDE RESIDENCE, standing on an Allotment and a Half of Freehold, frontage of 60ft. and depth 165ft., securely fenced, well drained—a corner block.

The Building comprises:—Sitting Room, Large Front Bedroom, Three other Bedrooms, Dining Room and Kitchen, cooled throughout, 3 Verandahs (Front, Side, and Back), fitted with Louver Shutters, Bath Room under House, water laid on to Bath Room, Wash Bench, and Kitchen, fitted throughout with Acetylene Gas, painted inside and out, New Stone and 800gal. Tank.

Furnished throughout with every convenience. Furniture and Piano in first-class condition.

Boat Shed, 20 x 15 (secure), with Steel Ribs and Windlass for Motor Boat.

New Motor Boat, 20 x 7, with 4-5 Wilson Engine, in splendid order, running and Tarpaulin.

New 14ft. Boat (complete), with Fittings and Oars.

Private Jetty, 50ft. long, with Concrete Piers.

Residence and Boats are offered in one lot or separately to suit purchasers. Furniture at valuation, or will be disposed of by Auction.

Full particulars from W. H. SHAMBLER, Gympie, and keys for inspection obtainable from F. KRAITON, Esq., adjoining Residence. (3-1-20)

Right from the very early days, the town of Gympie had a kinship with the village of Tewantin. It was, of course, at Tewantin on the Noosa River that a lot of miners disembarked from their ships for their journey on foot to the Gympie goldfields. It is not surprising that many early Gympie businessmen had holiday homes in the picturesque township of Tewantin even as they do today, although Tewantin and Noosa are no longer small settlements. Bill and Nell Shambler had a Family Residence on the Noosa River. They sold this in 1920. The 'For Sale' advertisement in the Gympie Times described in detail a lovely four bedroomed house plus a 30ft jetty, with a 20ft motor boat also for sale.

Gympie Times - 6 Jan. 1920



W.H. (Bill) Shambler died in 1924 aged 63 years, having been a highly respected citizen of Gympie for many decades. The Gympie Times, in a lengthy obituary, wrote of Shambler as one of Gympie's leading merchants. The paper continued that, despite his 42 years in business in Gympie, Mr Shambler never took any prominent part in local political matters and could never be prevailed upon to enter the City Council. Mr Shambler's community interests were however quite widespread, and included the Chamber of Commerce and Mines also, because of his enthusiasm for motoring, the Gympie Automobile Club. He was elected Vice President of the Automobile Club at its first meeting in 1919.

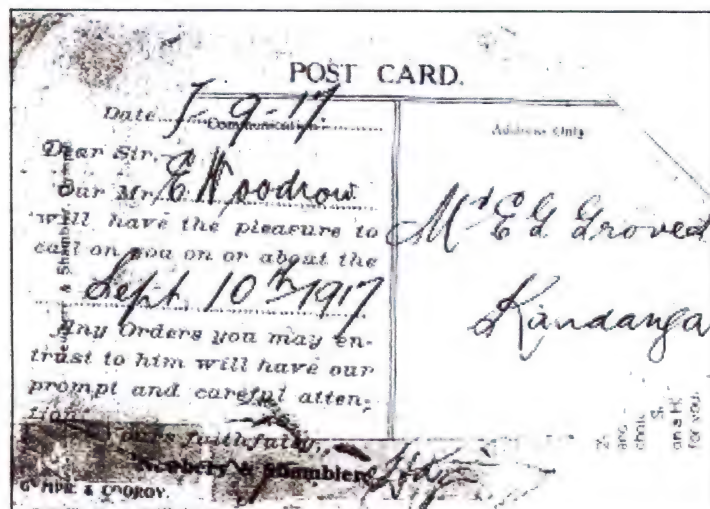
Bill Shambler served as President on many community committees. He found Bowling to be his chief recreation and was President of the Gympie Bowling Club for three years in the early 1920s. He was also made the Club's Patron. Both Mr and Mrs Shambler served on the Committee of Management of the Gympie Presbyterian Church on Red Hill Road. He was also one of the men instrumental in forming the Gympie Fire Brigade. He also had been an active member of the Oddfellows Lodge.

Soon after her husband's death, Ellen (Nell) Shambler moved to Sydney where she lived with a daughter and a son-in-law until her death in 1946 at the age of 89 years.

W.H. Shambler's sons had always been closely associated with their father in the building up of the family business and, on the death of Shambler Snr in 1924, the sons Edgar and Arthur took over as the principals of Shamblers Limited – as Managing Director and Director respectively.



**Mr W.H. Shambler, Manager,  
Shamblers Ltd – Jan. 1920**



**A calling card from an N & S travelling**

For a long time, Shamblers had sought business over a large area – not only in Gympie and the surrounding Widgee district. In 1925, the company was successful in its tenders to the Noosa Shire Council for *sanitary pans at five shillings and sixpence and replacements at seven shillings, (55 and 70 cents.)*

For many years, commercial travellers had been employed by Shamblers to take samples of all types of goods to small and large



towns – near and far. The company also employed two town travellers who collected orders for groceries etc. Shamblers were pleased to announce in the 1920s that *all deliveries were by motor truck*.

Each year, Pugh's 'Business Directories of Queensland' listed all businesses in every town in the State, showing every category of business. In Pugh's 1926 edition, Gympie was shown as a municipality (city) proclaimed on 5 January 1905 with a population in 1926 of 12000.

Businesses listed in the 1926 Pugh's included Shamblers under the following headings:

Cabinet Makers & Furniture Dealers,  
Fruiterers and Confectioners,  
Grocers & General Storekeepers,  
Produce Merchants,  
Gunsmiths, Ironmongers,  
Plumbers, Tinsmiths & Gas Fitters.



**SHAMBLERS LIMITED**  
*Established in 1882.*

One of the oldest and most up-to-date Establishments in the Wide Bay District,  
comprising:

**IRONMONGERY, GROCERY, FURNITURE, CROCKERY, and PLUMBING.**  
All Deliveries by Motor Lorries.

*Under the Supervision of*  
W. H. SHAMBLER, Governing Director.      F. W. SHAMBLER, Director.

**SHAMBLERS LIMITED General Merchants, Mary Street, Gympie**

#### **G.T. advertisement – 1937 (Gympie's 60<sup>th</sup> year)**

It is interesting to note from the 1926 Pugh's, that there were more than 10 Grocers and General Storekeepers in Mary Street. In 2011, there are no similar shops. As in other cities, suburban drive-in shopping centres have become the norm.

For Shamblers' advertisement in a special publication for Gympie's Diamond Jubilee in 1927, the Directors stated that during the time of their control, it was their main object to give the best that money could buy, and to uphold the firm's reputation which had then been in existence for 45 years.

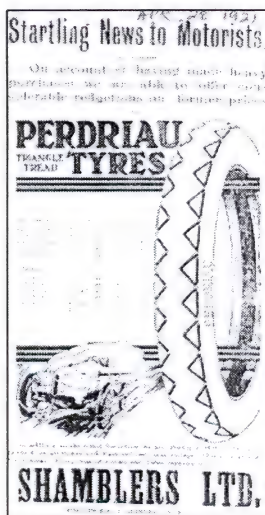
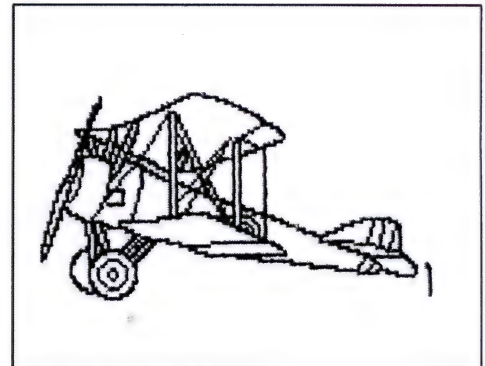
All the flying done in Gympie until 1933 was conducted from the Showgrounds and from time to time after World War I, aeroplanes landed there to give joy flights at 10 shillings (\$1) a flight. Among the intrepid passengers on one such flight were Arthur's sister, Miss Win Shambler and Mr Walter Bell who was the Manager of the Butter



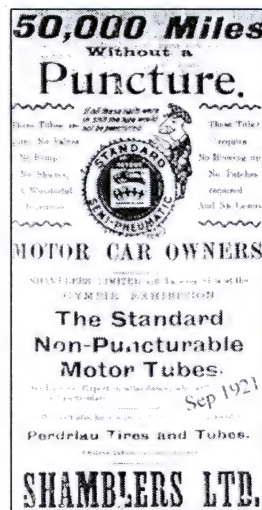
Factory. Walter's son, Spencer Bell, a retired National Bank Manager and a World War II pilot, lived in Gympie until his death at the age of 89 in 2002. Spencer Bell often spoke of the excitement among all ages of the days when small planes, including Bert Hinkler's, landed on the Showgrounds.



1920s - Walter Bell and Winnie Shambler before a joy flight which took off from the Gympie Showgrounds.



28 April 1921



Sep. 1921



1921

## THE GREAT DEPRESSION

Perusal of The Gympie Times dated in the late 1920s and the 1930s reveals the sad economic position of Gympie, and indeed of Australia. The depression was world-wide with unemployment rife. It was a time of disorder and chaos and of great unease everywhere.

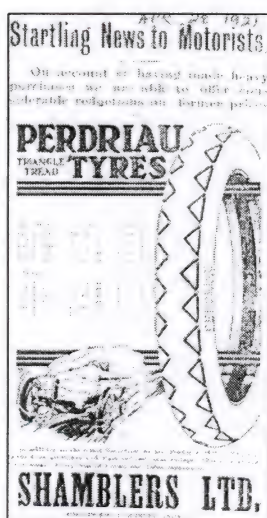
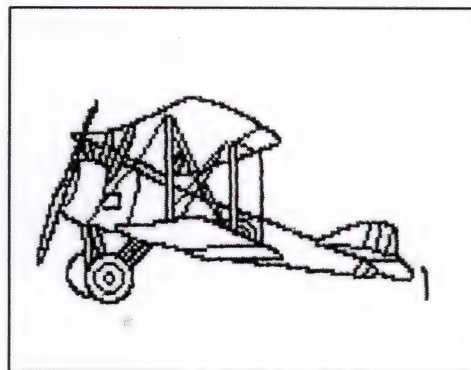
Of particular interest to Gympie at that time was the decline in gold-mining, the last big mining companies having ceased operations in 1926 and 1927. As a consequence, many Gympie businesses suffered financial difficulties. Hard times continued in Gympie and elsewhere for many years. An indication is given when we see that even in May 1935 Gympie storekeepers were advertising that Government Winter Relief Orders would be accepted for Drapery, Clothing, Boots and Shoes.



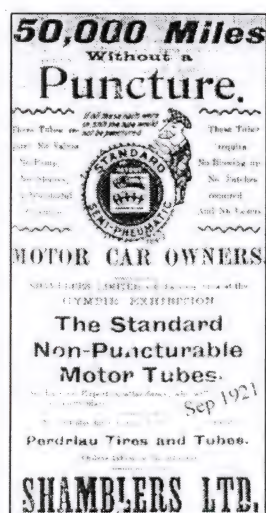
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**1920s - Walter Bell and Winnie Shambler before a joy flight which took off from the Gympie Showgrounds.**



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# GROCERIES

## Prices to Suit the Times

WE DELIVER to any part of the city, all orders, large or small FREE. Country Orders on Rail. Groceries FREE.

# Shamblers Limited

### CASH AND DELIVERY SERVICE GROCERS AT CASH AND CARRY PRICES.

### CASH PRICES:

HUTTON'S HAMS—Cloth, 1 5; Seed, 1 7 per lb. HUTTON'S HAM CURED SHOULDERS—3/2 per lb.

We can supply at all times, Hutton's Cooked Hams, 1 extra; Half Hams, 5d. per lb. extra.

Dried Fruit.		Jama. INL or Willow		LONDON per case	
BERGAMOTS per lb.	1	APPLES, 20 lbs.	1	APPLES, 20 lbs.	1
BUTTER, 20 lbs.	1	APPLES, 10 lbs.	1	APPLES, 10 lbs.	1
BUTTER, 10 lbs.	1	APPLES, 5 lbs.	1	APPLES, 5 lbs.	1
BUTTER, 5 lbs.	1	APPLES, 2 1/2 lbs.	1	APPLES, 2 1/2 lbs.	1
BUTTER, 2 1/2 lbs.	1	APPLES, 1 1/4 lbs.	1	APPLES, 1 1/4 lbs.	1
BUTTER, 1 1/4 lbs.	1	APPLES, 3/4 lb.	1	APPLES, 3/4 lb.	1
BUTTER, 3/4 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/2 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/2 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/2 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/4 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/4 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/4 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/8 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/8 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/8 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/16 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/16 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/16 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/32 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/32 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/32 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/64 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/64 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/64 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/128 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/128 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/128 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/256 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/256 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/256 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/512 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/512 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/512 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/1024 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/1024 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/1024 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/2048 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/2048 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/2048 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/4096 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/4096 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/4096 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/8192 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/8192 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/8192 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/16384 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/16384 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/16384 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/32768 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/32768 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/32768 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/65536 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/65536 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/65536 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/131072 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/131072 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/131072 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/262144 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/262144 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/262144 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/524288 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/524288 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/524288 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/1048576 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/1048576 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/1048576 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/2097152 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/2097152 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/2097152 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/4194304 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/4194304 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/4194304 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/8388608 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/8388608 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/8388608 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/16777216 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/16777216 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/16777216 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/33554432 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/33554432 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/33554432 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/67108864 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/67108864 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/67108864 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/134217728 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/134217728 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/134217728 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/268435456 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/268435456 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/268435456 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/536870912 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/536870912 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/536870912 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/1073741824 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/1073741824 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/1073741824 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/2147483648 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/2147483648 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/2147483648 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/4294967296 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/4294967296 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/4294967296 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/8589934592 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/8589934592 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/8589934592 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/17179869184 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/17179869184 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/17179869184 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/34359738368 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/34359738368 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/34359738368 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/68719476736 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/68719476736 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/68719476736 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/137438953472 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/137438953472 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/137438953472 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/274877906944 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/274877906944 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/274877906944 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/549755813888 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/549755813888 lb.	1
BUTTER, 1/549755813888 lb.	1	APPLES, 1/1099511627776 lb.	1		

[illegible]



Shamblers Limited however continued trading in the late 1920s and early 1930s - although not very profitably as we shall see. They remained a popular Mary Street emporium as 'Universal Providers' but the Directors sought to reduce the company's costs as far as possible. Up until 1930, the company had a large advertising display in every issue of the Gympie Times. This had to change. In the last months of 1930, the Men's Department featured. Those were some of their last large displays.



In the pre-Christmas advertisements, Shamblers Ltd's Grocery Department offered to send price lists out on application. *Usually the Cheapest...Always the Best*, they claimed. They also emphasized that *The New Electric Ice Chest* (refrigerator) *does the trick*.

The Gympie Times Christmas Supplement of December 1930 told of Shamblers' new Mercery Department. The other sections of the business were shown as Crockery, Glass, China and Brassware, Grocery, Hardware, Furniture, Sporting goods, Camping goods, also a Motor Department with tyres, tubes etc. *A visit to this emporium is well worthwhile. Those seeking useful gifts should find plenty from which to choose.*

Of particular interest to the 1930 journalist was the fine display of Doulton and Shelley Ware in Shamblers' Crockery Department. *These goods are very attractive and bear views of the city which should make them valuable as Christmas presents for friends outside of Gympie.* A number of these beautiful items still exist in private collections today, having been made in England expressly for Shamblers Ltd.

Similarly a Supplement the following year mentions all the departments. *As one enters the nicely lighted shop, one's attention is arrested by the spacious floor-space and the fine display of every conceivable article - from the smallest kitchen utensil to modern machinery for the man on the land.*

A perusal of the company's advertising in 1931 and the next few years, shows that the directors had succeeded in reducing their costs. The large advertisements no longer existed, although several four- and five-line items were spread at irregular intervals through each day's Classifieds. Gympie's own 'Golden Nugget' butter, which of course had become a world famous brand and product, was a "Special" each Thursday and Friday at one shilling and seven pence (16 cents) per pound. It was during this era that Walt



Disney created cartoon characters and Mickey Mouse cups, plates and mugs arrived in Gympie at Shamblers.

Half price sales were held from time to time for a variety of goods. Certainly, February's One-Week-Only-Sale of Doulton Ware China of all sorts and sizes would have been remarkable. Items advertised in the Classifieds ranged widely – from Kapok Mattresses, Flower Pots and Kitchen Suites, to Linos, Carpets and clean Benzene Drums. (With no petrol tankers in those days, fuel came to the bowzers from the rail in large drums.)

In May 1931, limited stocks of Car Tubes were offered at excellent prices and all Ford parts were to be sold at near cost. Car chains were also very cheap - indicating the need for these items in wet weather when few roads were sealed.

In September of that year, Shamblers sponsored a number of events at the Annual Bushmen's Carnival. The Company's display included the *famous* Pasture Harrow and again the JR Saxon Wood Stove. A five year guarantee was offered on this stove and for one week only, a Lady Demonstrator would be cooking on a JR Saxon Wood Stove in the Mary Street store. Customers were invited to attend to *watch her at work on this magnificent stove.*

Hutton's Hams and Small Goods were always available at Shamblers and for one period, pork sausages were on special at six pence (5c) per pound.

In December 1931, Shamblers were offering a 10% discount in most departments. By this time, the shop was *fully under one roof with no partitions whatsoever.* And the latest Grocery List was always available and could be posted to customers. A Times journalist wrote in 1931 that the most noticeable feature of Shamblers Ltd was the spacious floor space. The journalist went on to comment on the new system of having the price marked on every article in the Grocery section. This was keenly appreciated by customers. The writer concluded by stating that *the whole shop was an eye-opener.*

To get a feeling for what life was like in Gympie town and district in those depression times, there could be nothing better than to read a rather lengthy Times Editorial in that pre-Christmas period –

<p><b>HUTTON'S SPECIAL PORK SAUSAGES</b></p> <p>6<sup>D</sup>. PER LB. . . . . CASH</p> <p>6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> D. PER LB. . . . . BOOKED</p>
<p><b>CAN SUPPLY EVERY DAY IN THE WEEK</b></p> <p>HUTTON'S have the Name. HUTTON'S supply the good Article. SHAMBLERS' have the Name. SHAMBLERS' supply the HUTTON'S Article.</p> <p><small>The Calf said to a Pig: "You are a Pig. The Calf said: "What's in Shamblers' Sausages?" The Pig said: "Why, Shamblers' said 'Pork Sausages'."</small></p> <p><small>The Calf walked away, and was found to say: "There's not much difference between the colour of my flesh and yours."</small></p>
<p>Try Us for HUTTON'S Cooked and Sliced HAMS.</p> <p><b>Oct 1931</b></p> <p><b>SHAMBLERS LIMITED</b></p>

#### BUSY CHRISTMAS SEASON EXPECTED

*A careful inspection of the business houses of Gympie during the past week discloses that despite the hard times through which the country is passing, Gympie business people are determined to adopt an attitude of optimism – which is one of the surest means of defeating the pessimistic outlook so harmful to business.*

*Realizing that the residents of the city and district always spend more freely during the Christmas season, Gympie's stores have made full provision for the rush. In every shop one may see large stocks of Christmas specials. The windows of the larger stores are a treat to look upon.*

*The spending capacity of the people may not be as great as in previous years, but with the glorious rains recently, the men on the land particularly, will not be slow to open their purses wide during the Christmas shopping*



week and they may do so knowing that, true to the best traditions of fair business dealing, they will get full value for their money.

The fact that the storekeepers have taken a business risk in making such large indents of goods useful for the Christmas festivities is evidence of their faith in the soundness of the city and district; and it is safe to predict that the public will take full advantage of the really wonderful goods that have been stocked for Christmas shopping.

The Gympie Times - 12 Dec 1931

## ABDY BROS

Despite the economic depression of the 1920s and 30s, there were still entrepreneurs around. Two such were brothers Herb and Bob Abdy, who from the late 1920s were travelling salesmen in the drapery business. (The Queensland Post Office Directory for 1912-1913 listed as residents of Gympie – Archibald E. Abdy, George Abdy, Herbert Abdy, James and Thomas Abdy.)

In December 1930, the Abdys opened a shop in what was Neumann's Building (where Condie's Arcade is today). Another brother Nick joined them afterwards. When Scurrs of Murgon closed down, the Abdy brothers purchased all the general drapery and menswear, plus men's, ladies' and children's boots and shoes. All this ex-Scurrs stock was to be sold in Gympie regardless of cost. Abdys' December 1930 sale was to be *the biggest price cutting event ever held*.

Soon after, Abdy Bros had another huge sale of stationery, Christmas cards, presents, toys etc. acquired from another 'Assigned Estate'. This whole stock was to be sold in 14 days and included a cash register, a fireproof safe, counters and a glass show-case. Fireworks, boomerangs and mouth-organs were also selling off at half-price – *genuine bargains, there being no depression at Abdys*.

In December 1931, a Times journalist reported that the cheapness of wearing apparel, made possible by bulk buying, is causing the Abdy Bros store in central Mary Street to become a popular shopping rendezvous during these days of depression.

Obviously, not every citizen was short of funds at the time, as the journalist emphasized that Abdys had catered for the people who do not have to consider the cost when purchasing. The Ladies' section in the store bore the hallmark of quality and the haberdashery section disclosed a range of high class silk hose because fashion demanded that a woman's stockings and shoes should be as attractive as her frock.

1930

**ANOTHER  
SENSATION!**

HAVING Purchased Dan Degan's Estate  
High Class Men's Mercer, Toowoomba,  
at a Ridiculously Low Figure, we are pass-  
ing the same out to the public of Gympie  
and district UNDER WHOLESALE COST.

SALE STARTS  
SATURDAY MORNING

Watch Saturday's Issue

**ABDY BROS.**

Neumann's Building. Mary Street. Gympie

13<sup>th</sup> December 1930



# The Gympie Times

ESTABLISHED 1868

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1930.

SIXTEEN PAGES.

## GIGANTIC OPENING SALE

Of General Drapery, Men's Mercery, and Men's,  
Ladies' and Children's Boots and Shoes

Commencing Tuesday Next, Dec. 9

IN THE ASSIGNED ESTATE OF SCURRS (MURGON), TOGETHER WITH SOUTHERN  
MANUFACTURERS' LINES, THE WHOLE OF THE STOCK IS TO BE SOLD RE-  
GARDLESS OF COST.

Ladies' Fuji Silk Bloomers. Sold at 3/11 pair.  
Half Price—1/11 Pair.

Ladies' Silk and Cotton Bloomers. Sold at 3/6 pair.

Half Price—1/9 Pair.

Ladies' Cotton Vests. Sold 1/6.

Half Price—9d.

Ladies' Silk Stockings. Sold at 4/11 pair.

To Clear at 1/11 Pair.

Ladies' Lustre Silk Stockings; all latest shades. Sold at 6/11 Pair.

Now Selling at 4/11 Pair.

Ladies' Silk Arto Stockings, big variety of shades. Sold at 5/11 pair.

Now Selling at 4/9 Pair.

Ladies' Genuine Kayser Pure Silk Stockings fully fashioned, slipper heel. Sold at 15/11 pair.

Now Selling at 11/6 Pair.

Ladies' Voile Frocks. Sold at 25.

Half Price—12/6.

Ladies' Fuji Silk Princess Slips, trimmed with lace, etc. Sold at 12/6.

Half Price—6/3.

Ladies' Fuji Silk Night Dresses.

Now Selling at 5/11.

Ladies' Crepe Bloomers.

To Clear at 1/1 Pair.

30 Inch Crepes; all shades, good quality. Sold at 8/11 Dozen.

Now Selling at 4/11 Dozen.

30 Inch Double Double Super Weight Fuji Silk. Sold at 2/11 yard.

Special Price—1/11 Yard.

Double Width Crepe de Chenes; guaranteed. Sold at 6/11 yard.

Special Price—3/11 Yard.

Men's Cotton Gaberdine Trousers; all sizes. Sold at 8/11 pair.

Opening Sale Price—3/11 Pair.

Men's Cotton Singlets.

To Clear at 1/3 Each.



HUNDREDS

OF

BARGAINS

AWAITS

YOUR

INSPECTION

■■■■■■■■■■



NOW  
PEOPLE!

Avail  
Yourself  
of this  
Marvellous  
Opportunity

Men's English Palmer Napp Trousers; all sizes. Sold at 13/6 pair.

To Clear at 7/11 Pair.

Men's Genuine All Wool Saddle Twist Trousers; all sizes. Sold at 37/6.

Half Price—18/9.

Men's Striped Oxford Shirts, quality guaranteed; all sizes. Sold at 4/11.

Now Selling at 2/9.

600—Men's Double Double Super Weight Fuji Silk Sports Tennis and Tourist Shirts. Sold at 18/6. While They Last 8/11 Special Price . . .

Men's All Wool Ipswich Flannels. Sold at 7/11. Another Harvest at . . . . . 4/11

400—Assortment in Men's Striped and Plain Silk and Crepe de Chene Shirts.

To be sold under Wholesale Cost.

Men's Patent Leather Shoes, Hansom manufacturing. Sold at 25/ to 30/ and 35/.

Now Selling at 16/6 Pair.

Ladies' Shoes, patent leather. Sold at 25/.

Now Selling at 14/6 Pair.

300 Pairs of Boys and Girls' Boots and Shoes.

To be Sold From 2/11 Pair.

Men's Blucher Military Boots; the famous Hansom manufacture.

To Clear at 14/11 Pair.

Boys' Suits, Trousers, Shirts, Shirt Waists and Ranger Suits.

At a Huge Reduction.

Men's Genuine Pure Felt Hats, snap brim style. Sold at 25/.

Now Selling at 15/.

THIS IS THE BIGGEST PRICE CUTTING EVENT EVER HELD IN GYMPIE

## ABDY BROS.,



**LAST WEEK**  
CLOSING DOWN DEFINITELY  
**Saturday, December 20**  
ALL STOCKS MUST BE SOLD BY  
SATURDAY NEXT. 1930

**HUGE SALE OF—**  
GENERAL STATIONERY  
XMAS CARDS  
XMAS PRESENTS  
NOVELTIES TOYS, ETC

Now people of Gympie and District this  
marvellous opportunity of securing your Christ-  
mas wants at Ridiculously Low Prices

**EVERYTHING MUST BE SOLD**

Large quantity of Fireworks. Half Price  
Quantity of Boomerang Mouth Organs.  
Now Selling Off at Half Price.

£80 Worth of Christmas Cards: a wonderful  
assortment and variety to pick from.  
All to be Cleared at Half Price.

There is a Wonderful Range of Presentation  
Books and Prize Books, etc.  
To be Sold at Half Price.

- 1 National Cash Register.
- 1 Large Iron Ajax Fireproof Safe.
- 3 Counters.
- 1 Glass Show Case

The Whole Stock to be Sold by Saturday Next,  
20th December.

**NOW IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY !**  
**BARGAINS WHILE THEY LAST.**  
Selling off the assigned Estate of Norm. Ganley.

**ABDY BROS.**  
Mary Street 21 Gympie

13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> December 1930

**NOTICE** 1930

**HUGE SALE of General Stationery, Xmas Cards,  
Xmas Presents, Novelties, Toys, etc.**

**COMMENCES THIS MORNING**

IN THE ASSIGNED ESTATE OF N. GANLEY, THE WHOLE OF THE ENTIRE STOCK  
MUST BE SOLD WITHIN 14 DAYS.

NOW PEOPLE OF GYMPIE AND DISTRICT, THIS IS A MARVELLOUS OPPORTUNITY  
OF SECURING YOUR CHRISTMAS WANTS AT RIDICULOUSLY LOW PRICES

**EVERYTHING MUST BE SOLD !**

<p>Dormition Crepe Paper. Sold at 1/-. Now Selling at Half Price—6d. Plat.</p> <p>H. and S. Novels. Sold at 2/6 per copy. Now Selling at Half Price—1/3.</p> <p>Writing Pads. Sold at 9d. per pad. Now Selling at Half Price—4 1/2d. Pad.</p> <p>Large Exercises. Sold at 1/- per book. Now Selling at Half Price—6d. Book.</p> <p>Huge Quantity of Boomerang Mouth Or- gans. Now Selling Off at Half Prices.</p> <p>£80 Worth of Christmas Cards. A wonder- ful assortment and variety. All to be Cleared Under Wholesale Cost.</p>	<p>Also large quantity of Fireworks for Xmas Xmas Presents and Novelties and a varied assortment of Toys. To Be Sacrificed.</p> <p>There is a wonderful range of Presentation Books, Prize Books and School Books. Etc. To Be Cleared Off.</p> <p>All Office and School Requisites. Also to be Sacrificed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 National Cash Register.</li> <li>1 Large Ajax Fireproof Safe</li> <li>3 Counters</li> <li>1 Glass Show Case</li> </ul>
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**THE WHOLE STOCK TO BE SOLD WITHIN 14 DAYS**  
**THIS WILL BE A GREAT MONEY SAVING EVENT TO THE PUBLIC OF GYMPIE  
AND DISTRICT**

**BARGAINS WHILE THEY LAST !**

**ABDY BROS.**  
Selling off the Assigned Estate of N. Ganley, Stationer, Mary Street, Gympie.

Gympie Times – Sat. 6 Dec. 1930



1930's - Mary Street with Abdy Bros on the right.



In those difficult days, the older and larger stores such as Shamblers and Cullinan's were reducing their advertising costs whereas Abdy Brothers advertised widely. On 15 December 1931 they had a large advertisement commemorating their first year of trading in Gympie. *To show our appreciation of the wonderful patronage, we are launching out in a Huge Christmas Drive with every line throughout the store being greatly reduced.* Trading and business advertisements in The Gympie Times in 1933 cost two shillings (20 cents) for 16 words for one insertion and three shillings and sixpence (35 cents) for two insertions.

**AMAMMOOR**  
 NT 286  
 1936  
*James McKeenman*  
**Dr. to S. PRING**  
 General Storekeeper, Ironmonger, etc.  
 Charged on Overdue Accounts Strictly Monthly Settlements

To Account Rendered	incl 1/24 Retail note	9 18 1
		9 15 1
		9 8 1

April 9 Retail note

**AMAMMOOR**  
 NT 320  
 1936  
*H. Wheeler*  
**Dr. to S. PRING**  
 General Storekeeper, Ironmonger, etc.  
 Charged on Overdue Accounts Strictly Monthly Settlements

To Account Rendered	incl 1/24 Retail note	6 1 6
		1 1 6
		5 0 0

incl 1/24 Retail note

It was not only Shamblers Ltd who found things tough going in those depression days. Monthly statements in 1936 from Sam Pring's General Store at Amamoor indicate how two locals were still paying off some long outstanding accounts. Mr McLellan owed nine pounds eight shillings and one penny (\$19.81) and was paying this off at the rate of five shillings (50c) per month. Reference to some of Pring's earlier Invoices showed (in today's currency) such items as - Pr. Shoes - 38 cents; tea - 12 cents; Mothballs - 5c; Tinned Fish - 12c.

Sadly, as a result of the world-wide depression, business was not going too well at Shamblers and certain changes were necessary. In May 1932, the Board of Directors of Shamblers Limited lodged a request with the State Companies Office to be re-registered as a proprietary (private) company to be called Shamblers Pty Ltd.

Innovations continued at the store and in April 1933, a new self-serve system of shopping was introduced. However, a year later - in April 1934 still in depression mood, the Directors passed a resolution to voluntarily wind up the company because of their inability to trade profitably. Certainly there were general management problems but among other things, the Directors realized that they had been over generous in allowing



credit to their customers. A Brisbane firm of Chartered Accountants was appointed as Liquidators and in August 1934, suitable For Sale advertisements were placed in The Gympie Times and in The Courier Mail.

In July 1935, the Abdy Brothers paid a deposit on the purchase of Shamblers' Mary Street stock-in-trade, plant and shop premises. They took over the following month at a total cost of around 12000 pounds (\$24000) which included 3000 pounds (\$6000) for the Mary Street land and building.

At Cooroy within a few months, an existing hardware and grocery business - Marryatt & McKenzie, purchased Shamblers' Cooroy business for 1400 pounds (\$2800). The Marryatt & McKenzie business had opened in Cooroy in 1921. (Today at 18 Maple Street, the Cooroy business of "Home Hardware" continues to some extent the Shamblers' business which started on that spot in 1917.)

Meanwhile back in Gympie, the collection of hundreds of Shamblers' Book Debts caused considerable delay in finalizing the wind-up of the Shambler Company. Some of the outstanding debts were as low as five shillings (50 cents) but that was big enough money for some people when a basic wage at the time was but a pound or so (\$2) a week.

Eventually however, all unsecured creditors were progressively paid out in full, the largest creditor, a Supplier, having been owed 1100 pounds (\$2200). A very nominal surplus was paid to the family shareholders. Bill Shambler's widow, Ellen (Nell) received 250 pounds (\$500) and her four children each received \$240 (\$480). These payments to members of the Shambler family represented just under 20 cents for each \$2 share in the company's books.

Although the value of money has changed considerably with inflation over the last 80 years and into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the amounts received by the family were very small on the sale of a large business which had operated in Gympie for over 50 years. It should be kept in mind that in the 1920s and the 1930s, thousands of businesses throughout Australia went to the wall, the depression taking such a big toll on families and on businesses, large and small.

The Liquidator's final Statements of Accounts (held in the Queensland State Archives Offices) show that a total Receipts and Payments on the winding-up was 11749 pounds (\$23498). So as we have seen, the Shamblers' business was sold in 1935 to Abdy Bros and by October 1937, the Shambler Company ceased to exist.

Initially with Mr Nick Abdy *personally in control*, Abdy Brothers continued as a household name in Gympie and district for another half a century. During 1935, the Abdys combined their two businesses into what had been Shamblers' building, the freehold of which they had purchased. The firm as Abdy Bros continued but with a lot less departments than the old Shamblers. Fifty years later in 1985 (Abdys then being a hardware store only) the Maryborough-based hardware firm of Horsburgh & Co. acquired the freehold building with certain stock and assets of Abdy Bros at 24-30 Mary Street. (This was following the death of Mr Herb Abdy.) Later on, Horsburgh & Co. sold the business to Campbells/Carricks of Brisbane who moved out of Mary Street. Thus ended a business that had existed in Mary Street Gympie for over 100 years.

It is interesting to note how Newbery & Shambler (and later Shamblers Ltd) described themselves in various newspaper advertisements over the many years of their existence:

**Universal Providers**  
**The Shop for the Right price**  
**Usually the Cheapest – Always the Best**  
**Complete Home Furnishers**

**Where Values are Best**  
**The Firm that Sells the Goods.**  
**The Leading & Oldest District Plumbers**  
**Everything for Dairymen and Farmers**



Like their father before them, the Shambler brothers - Edgar and Arthur, were involved over the years in the Gympie community in various ways, including being members of city choirs and church workers. The Gympie Philharmonic Choir was Grand Champion at the Bundaberg Choir Contest of 1908. Both Edgar and Arthur Shambler were members of that well-known competition-winning choir as were their cousins, Fred and Walter Pring (brothers of Mrs Joe Shambler).



**Gympie Philharmonic Choir was established in 1898. This 1908 photo includes Edgar and Arthur Shambler, Walter and Fred Pring (sons of R.L. Pring).**

In August 1924, after the death of his father, Edgar Shambler was welcomed as a new member of the Gympie Chamber of Commerce and Mines. At that meeting, the Chamber resolved to send a letter of condolence to the widow of Mr W.H. Shambler. The Chamber's President wrote that Mr Shambler, who earlier had been President of the Society, had *always been a good citizen and was always willing to do his share.*

A Gympie Times report in March 1927 indicated Edgar Shambler's active participation in Chamber of Commerce affairs. As one example, he and H. Grant represented the Chamber in a delegation to the Commissioner for Railways on the latter's visit to Gympie Railway Station. The delegation pointed out to the Commissioner that the lift at the Station was completely useless. Thankfully, the Commissioner agreed that the Department should spend 100 pounds (\$200) on a new lift.

After the Board of Shamblers Pty Ltd closed the family business, the then principals, Edgar Shambler (1885-1947) and Arthur Shambler (1890-1971) continued to live in Gympie.

Edgar and Liliias remained involved with the Gympie Presbyterian Church. The Church's records show that the organist's stool - for the historic pipe organ - had been donated by Edgar Shambler as a memorial gift. The names of this couple were familiar names in many reports of church organizations over the years including the Church's Board of Management. A report to the Board in 1952 stated - *Many ladies have worked continuously for 10 to 20 years including ..... and Liliias Shambler.*



In 1943, Edgar was one of 24 candidates for the position of Alderman for the City of Gympie with only eight being required. Edgar was not one of the successful men.

As an example of the Shamblers' continuing involvement in music, Edgar as soloist was one of the artists at the opening of the Long Flat Hall in 1932, and among various items, his party sang 'Sweet Adeline.' The brothers over the years were regular competitors at Eisteddfodau and other competitions. Edgar won the bass solo trophy at the 1932 Gympie Musical Festival. The Times reported in detail on the RSL Annual Ball in the then new Soldiers' Hall in Reef Street when ex-serviceman Arthur Shambler was the Master of Ceremonies.

After her husband's death, Mrs Edgar (Lil) Shambler continued to live for a long time in the family residence in Church Street. Volunteers who delivered meals to her home under the Meals on Wheels scheme, recall her always having her table nicely set out with beautiful crockery and cutlery, together with her special serviette. Lil eventually moved to the old Glandore Hospital in Nash Street, now the site of the Lutheran Zion Retirement Village.

For many years, she had been a faithful member of the Presbyterian Women's Guild. In 1968, Mrs Shambler then aged 84, was presented with a service certificate in recognition of her having been a member of the Guild for over 50 years. The Guild's Minutes recorded - *Her love for her church and her constant and untiring efforts on its behalf are an inspiration to each one of us.*

In 1971, she left hospital and moved to Winston House Residential Facilities. At age 89, she gave up her voluntary task of being in charge of the work stall at the church's annual flower show and in 1974, there was a Special Tea at Winston House to celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Liliash Shambler (nee Fisher) died at Winston House in 1976 aged 92 years, always having been widely known as a very gracious lady.

.....

After the sale of Shamblers in 1935, Arthur Shambler whose specialty had always been in hardware, obtained local employment in Gympie with Woodrow Bros and later for I.H.C. (the International Harvester Company). Subsequently, he was transferred to the company's Brisbane office. He died in 1971 aged 81 years. His widow Gert, died four years later.

Edgar Shambler remained in Gympie until his death in 1946, aged 62. At the end of the Shamblers' business, Edgar took a position as Local Agent for Queensland Pastoral Supplies Pty Ltd. That company advertised *Building lines and all rural requirements.* (Abdys did not have a farming / rural department.) In February 1935, he commenced his own agency business formally registering the business name of '*E. Shambler's Agencies*' with the State Registrar of Firms. He operated from the family home on Calton Hill, Gympie.

Edgar Shambler's method of advertising as the local agent for Queensland Pastoral Supplies Pty Ltd was by multiple classified adverts in The Gympie Times, up to six or eight adverts one below the other. Such adverts in 1934 and 1935 covered items as diverse as Blankets (from one pound = \$2), Mattresses, Sewing machines (12/10/- = \$25), Roadster Bicycles (5/19/- = \$11.90), Towels (1 to 3 shillings = 10 to 30 cents), Butter churns (27/6 = \$2.75), Tanks, Spouting, Laying mash, Pig food, Calf food and so on. Queensland Pastoral Supplies' prices *take some beating, selling wholesale to anyone. Why pay more?* asked the advertisements.



## MEMORABILIA

Many of today's residents of Gympie City and Gympie Region would not know the names Shambler nor Newbery, although these names were household names throughout a large area of south-east Queensland in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and for more than a third of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Only today's long-residing senior citizens can now recall those surnames, although more people recall Abdys, the successors to Shamblers.

Certainly there are no streets or parks named after those pioneering families - the Newberys and the Shamblers, but the name Pring is remembered with a short street called Pring Lane off Shanks Street where R.L. Pring had his home. There are, nevertheless, ample memorabilia in Gympie for those searching for Newbery or Shambler mementoes.

1. *The original Newbery & Shambler two-storeyed building - now 193 Mary Street and which was occupied by a Real Estate business until 2010. This was the building for the first Newbery business commenced in 1882. The exterior of this notable building looks as much as it did over 100 years ago. It was built in the late 1870s. A notable feature is the front balcony overhanging the footpath. This awning has a bull nosed vertical iron roof supported by cast iron pillars. The balustrade also is of cast iron lace.*



**1995 – The original Newbery & Shambler Store with balcony over the footpath. Erected c.1880.**



**1995 – The Medical Centre. In 2011 - Petersen's Real Estate, but part of Newbery & Shambler premises from 1899 to 1909**



2. Next door to the original building, the building on the corner of Monkland Street - now 187 Mary Street - is occupied by a Real Estate firm and a Hair Salon. This is the one that Newbery & Shambler expanded into in 1899.
3. The Shamblers Limited building at the other end of Mary Street- No. 24, is now occupied by two stores and a Pharmacy. The building is not recognizable as Shamblers or Abdys due to substantial remodeling inside and out. Yet the large interior in three shops gives an indication of the magnitude of the whole floor area some 80 years ago.
4. The extensive Music Collection at the Gympie Regional Library in Mellor Street contains some sheet music which originally belonged to Edgar Shambler, to his uncle J.W. (Joe) Shambler, also to Joe's daughters Thelma (Burnett) and Olive (Parker), and in turn to Thelma's daughter Dawn (Dawson) and to Olive's daughter Dorothy (Grayson).
5. In the Local History room at the Gympie Region's Library, the Music Heritage collection contains a number of programs and recitals in which the artists included members of the Shambler and Pring families. These are dated from the late 1800s into the 1930s.

# Popular Concert

— BY —

## Gympie Boys' Mouth Organ Band.

PART PROCEEDS IN AID TIN CAN BAY ROAD BRIDGES.

### SOLDIERS' HALL

### Friday, July 1st, 1938.

#### PROGRAMME

NATIONAL ANTHEM.

OVERTURE . . . . .	MR. A. FOSTER'S ORCHESTRA.
VOCAL DUET . . . . .	MRS. C. ADAMS AND MISS TOWNSEND
PIANOFORTE SOLO . . . . .	MISS JOAN SHAMBLER.
MOUTH ORGAN SELECTIONS . . . . .	SENIOR BOYS' BAND.
VOCAL SOLO . . . . .	MR. N. TODD
MOUTH ORGAN SOLO . . . . .	MASTER ERIC C.
ELOCUTION . . . . .	MISS
PIANOFORTE DUET . . . . .	
VOCAL SOLO . . . . .	
CORNET SOLO . . . . .	
VOCAL DUET . . . . .	
MOUTH ORG . . . . .	
VOCAL . . . . .	

#### Gympie Times

6. The lovely old homes of William and Ellen Shambler (Bill and Nell) still exist-  
 \*Randall Street- now No. 3. It has been carefully restored by its present owners  
 \*Channon Street and now No. 85, at the corner of Lawrence Street - another grand home awaiting refurbishment.





**1993 – The residence of Mr and Mrs W.H. Shambler, Randall St.  
(Photo G.T. Shambler).**

7. *The residence of Edgar & Lillas (Lil) Shambler at 30 Church Street, is still standing with the exterior and the interior much as they were in the 1930s. This Calton Hill residence still called 'Finchley' has changed little since Edgar and Lil's days although the original detached kitchen at the rear is now quite a separate residence. Red cedar was used extensively in the interior. The home has high ceilings, large rooms, huge sash windows and wide verandahs (originally on four sides of the house) with bull-nosed roofs. A 2002 Survey called 'Gympie's Commercial and Residential Character Study' included 'Finchley' as a Type D late 19<sup>th</sup> Century house. Type D homes were 'constructed circa 1880-1920 and represented the optimum development of the late Victorian era'. Finchley, built in 1892, was included in the Study as it 'was one of Gympie's timber mansions with their highly decorative entry pediments, being an intact and excellent example of a Type D house featuring elaborate decoration.'*



**"Finchley" – 30 Church Street - the home of Edgar and Lil Shambler. (Photo – G.T. Shambler. 1993.)**



8. *At No. 7 Channon Street, there is the one-time home of Arthur and Gertrude (Gertie) Shambler and their two children. It is today completely surrounded by commercial premises but retains its elegance. The front portion of the house and the level of the front yard have been changed since the 1930s but the exquisite interior is much the same as it was in its early days. Changes in 2010 tastefully converted the house into commercial premises.*



**2000 – 7 Channon Street the home of Arthur and Gert Shambler in the 1920/1930s. (Converted to business premises in 2010.)**

9. *Among the many fine displays at the Gympie and District Historical Museum next to Alford Park at Monkland, is a large mangle manufactured by and bearing the name of Newbery & Shambler. With large wooden rollers, this mangle was used for laundry in the days before electricity.*



**Mangle at the Gympie Museum – made by Newbery & Shambler**



10. In the Andrew Fisher cottage at the Museum, there is an article which looks like an old doll's bassinet. However, it is a lady's work basket which belonged originally to Mrs Lil Shambler.
11. The Museum holds a number of choir photographs. One is of the Gympie Philharmonic Choir. The photograph lists all the Choir's successes from 1898 to 1907. Choristers include E. and A. Shambler and Walter Pring. Among other Shambler music memorabilia, there is a conductor's baton which belonged to Edgar Shambler and a Cup which he won in the Bass Section of the Bundaberg Musical Festival in 1932.
12. Also on display at the Museum is an elegant 18<sup>th</sup> century Silver Samovar (Teapot on stand). This was a wedding gift to Malcolm George Simpson and his wife, Florence Nellie (Toll) Shambler. They were married in 1916, Toll being the eldest daughter of Bill and Nell Shambler.
13. The Gympie Bowls Club's Past Presidents' Board lists W.H. Shambler's Presidential years as 1919, 1921 and 1922.

Year	President	Vice-President	Secretary
1898-1901	W. HENDERSON		
1902-1903	W. HENDERSON		
1904-1905	A. WHALE	J. F. HOLLIS	C. STEWART
1906-1907	A. WHALE	W. HENDERSON	ARRARSON
1908-1909	A. WHALE	J. C. BAYLIE	J. JACKSON
1910-1911	A. WHALE	R. RANKIN	A. WHALE
1912-1913	J. JACKSON	R. RANKIN	J. JACKSON
1914-1915	A. WHALE	R. RANKIN	J. JACKSON
1916-1917	A. WHALE	A. WHALE	H. R. HARVEY
1918-1919	R. RANKIN	H. R. HARVEY	T. ALFORD
1920-1921	J. F. HOLLIS	J. F. HOLLIS	C. TOWNSEND
1922-1923	C. TOWNSEND	R. RANKIN	C. TOWNSEND
1924-1925	A. CLASCOY	A. WHALE	W. CONDIE
1926-1927	E. J. ELWORTHY	R. RANKIN	A. WHALE
1928-1929	W. H. SHAMBLER	H. R. HARVEY	C. TOWNSEND
1930-1931	W. H. SHAMBLER	R. RANKIN	J. JACKSON
1932-1933	W. H. SHAMBLER	J. A. BARNES	W. J. PEARCE
1934-1935	R. RANKIN	R. RANKIN	W. CONDIE
1936-1937	R. STITT	R. RANKIN	C. STEWART
1938-1939	W. GILFORD	W. J. PEARCE	A. CLASCOY

**Gympie Bowls Club Past Presidents' Board. With  
W.H. Shambler: 1919/20, 1920/21 and 1921/22.**

14. A number of Gympie's World War I Rolls of Honour include the name of Arthur Shambler. One is at the Red Hill Road Uniting Church Hall (previously St Andrew's Presbyterian). Another is at the Channon Street Uniting Church (previously Surface Hill Methodist). Yet another is on the MU10OF Lodge Roll of Honour at the Museum.





**Gympie Presbyterian Church 1914/18 Roll of Honour with  
A.A. Shambler - now Red Hill Road Uniting Church**



**Surface Hill Methodist Church (now Channon Street  
Uniting Church) - Arthur Shambler**

15. The names of W.H. Shambler, R.L. Pring and W.H.L. Pring appear on several Lodge Memorial Boards in the old church building at the Monkland Museum.
16. The World War 1 Roll of Honour at the Red Hill Road Church Hall also includes the name of Wesley Shambler, the eldest son of Mr and Mrs J.W. Shambler (Joe and Janie). W.W. (Wesley) Shambler's name is also on the 1914/18 Roll of Honour of the Gympie Rechabite Lodge on a wall at the Gympie Historical Museum.
17. In Gympie's Town Hall (erected in 1890) at the Fiveways, there are Rolls of Honour listing the names of Gympie men who enlisted to serve their country in two World Wars. Arthur Shambler's name is included among those who returned home from Active Service in 1919. The plaque indicates his having been awarded the F.M.d'H – the French President's Medaille d'Honneur.
18. Six Newberys were buried at the Gympie Cemetery between 1891 and 1978 -
  - \* Mr W.A. Newbery's first wife Martha was buried in May 1886.
  - \* In 1891, one interment was of Bill's second wife Janet nee Prosser. The other was of Frank, the infant child of Janet and Bill.
  - \* Yet another burial (1897) was of John, the son of Bill and Martha Newbery.
  - \* Other burials in 1910 (Ethel May) and in 1978 (Hannah) were widows of descendants of Bill and Martha Newbery.



19. Six Prings were buried in Gympie between 1905 and 1981 - Richard Loram - 1905: William Henry - 1907: Eliza - 1915: Clara Johanna - 1958: Samuel - 1974: and Elsie Maud - 1981.



**Gympie Cemetery -In memory of  
R.L. Pring (d. 1905), Eliza his  
wife (d. 1915) and Samuel, their  
son (d. 1974).  
( Photo – G.T. Shambler)**



**Gympie Cemetery – Erected in  
memory of W.H. Shambler (d.  
1924).  
(Photo – 1993- G.T. Shambler.)**

20. The only Shamblers buried in Gympie were Mr W.H. (Bill) Shambler -1924, and his infant daughter Edith - 1889. An impressive headstone marks the last resting place of W.H. Shambler, once one of Gympie's leading businessmen. This fine headstone was erected above the original base after the death in 1946 in Sydney of Bill's wife, Ellen.
21. There exists on a dairy farm off Cavanagh Road, Greens Creek (east of Gympie), a water tank with the painting still visible of the word 'Shamblers'. This is sited on what was Joe Shambler's 40 acres dairy farm selected in 1910.

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**GYMPIE AND THE SHAMBLERS**  
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## The Life of OLIVE VERA PARKER nee SHAMBLER

Olive, or 'Tibs' as her father always called her, was born on 8 December 1903, the youngest of the four children of Joseph Walter (Joe) Shambler and his wife Sarah Jane (Janie) nee Pring.



**Olive Shambler aged 2,  
youngest daughter of Joe and Janie Shambler.**

The other children were Walter Wesley (called Wesley), Harold William, and Thelma Mary, born in 1896, 1898 and 1899. All four children were born at the family home in **Crescent Road**, Gympie.

The One Mile State School was established in 1869. Its Rolls show that Wesley Shambler was enrolled in 1904 with his younger brother Harold, being enrolled the following year.

Joe Shambler was the brother of leading Gympie businessman W.H. (Bill) Shambler, the latter thus being Olive's Uncle Bill. Bill Shambler and later Bill's sons Edgar and Arthur i.e. Olive's cousins, were very well-known in Gympie business circles for over 50 years. Firstly there was the firm of Newbery & Shambler which business started in 1882. (Gympie was settled in 1867 when gold was discovered.) Then there was Shamblers Ltd who were known as "Universal Providers and Plumbers, Ironmongers etc." Shamblers was a very big department store, known at one stage as one of the largest of its type in Queensland outside the capital city.

Joe and Janie Shambler's Crescent Road home no longer exists but today another house (No.4) stands there, next door to the railway line which had been extended to Brisbane in 1891.





Mrs J.W. (Janie) Shambler c.1900

Olive's grandfather (her mother's father, and the present author's great-grandfather) was Richard Loram Pring. He was a well and favorably known storekeeper in Gympie, having moved to the Gympie in 1867 from Brisbane not long after migrating from England and within a few months of the Gympie gold discovery. The name of Pring as a surname, ended in Gympie in 1974 on the death of Sam Pring one of the sons of Richard Loram Pring, although Sam's two daughters - Val and Daphne, still live in Gympie.

When Olive was aged 17 months, the Shambler family moved over the river (the Mary) to South Side, near **Jones Hill**. Olive's siblings attended the Jones Hill State School. The family's address was recorded on the school roll as 'South Side' and on the Electoral Roll about that time as 'Old Pie Creek

Road.' (The whereabouts of this latter road is not clear today. Old maps show "Eel and Pie Creek Roads" just south of McIntosh Creek and leading down to the old Normanby Bridge.)

The Jones Hill School Roll indicates that Wesley, Harold and Thelma were enrolled on 25 April 1905, their ages then being 9, 7 and 5, and school records show they left Jones Hill School in December 1909. Olive was too young for any schooling at Jones Hill.

DATE OF ADMISSION.	PUPIL'S NAME.	AGE.		RESIDENCE.	OCCUPATION OF PARENT.	RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION.	CLASSES.					
		YRS.	MONS.				FIRST.	SECOND.	THIRD.	FOURTH.	FIFTH.	SIXTH.
3-4-1905	Riddell, George Thomas 28-9-1898	6	6	Dawn Pocket	Engine-driver	P.	11/1905	1/07	5/09	7/10	4/11	
25-4-1905	Burgess, Mary 13-2-1899	6	2	Jones Hill	Miner	R.C.	11/1905	1/07	2/08	7/10		
25-4-1905	Shambler, Walter Wesley 26-4-1895	9	0	South Side	Plumber	P.			11/1905	1/07	2/08	
25-4-1905	Shambler, Harold Samuel 29-1-1898	7	3	South Side	Plumber	P.	11/1905	1/07	2/08			
25-4-1905	Shambler, Thelma Mary 8-9-1899	5	6	South Side	Plumber	P.	11/1905	1/07	2/08			

Extract from School Roll - 1905 Jones Hill State



When Olive's brother, Harold Shambler attended the Jones Hill Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in December 1962, he claimed to have topped his class in the 1908 School examinations for Grade IV.

When Olive's father, Joe Shambler migrated to Australia from England in 1889 at the age of 17 years, he was first employed by his brother at the firm of "Newbery & Shambler". Within this large business, Joe Shambler learned every facet of the metal working trades.

In the early 1900s (that is, before the time that Joe and Janie and the children moved over to South Side), Joe had his own tinsmithing/plumbing business based on Apollonian Vale, Gympie. A horse and sulky were the only means of travel in those days – whether for business or for a trip to town for shopping or to attend church.

Olive, who died in Brisbane in 2003 at the age of 99 years, had several recollections of the family's time at Jones Hill, some 95 years earlier. She could remember eels being caught for food from Calico (or McIntosh) Creek. (The Calico Creek name goes back to the time when the earliest Gympie miners lived under canvas/ calico tents.)

In later years, Olive never tired of telling her children of how she could remember the occasion at the family's Jones Hill home when she ran crying to her mother and calling 'nasty, nasty' while pointing to her mouth. Her mother knew that there was a bottle of strychnine in the shed so she thought the worst.

With no way of contacting her husband (no household phones then) a terrified Janie Shambler walked into town, some four or five miles, carrying little Olive to see the doctor. Mother was very relieved when Dr Ryan explained that strychnine has a sweet taste and if the child had swallowed some, she would not have been alive to travel to town.

While living at Crescent Road, later at Jones Hill and finally on a farm at Deep Creek (now Greens Creek), the family never failed to attend Sunday worship at Red Hill. Firstly, it was at the Red Hill Methodist Church (now the site of the Band Hall), and later at the Presbyterian Church directly opposite, (later to be called St Andrew's and subsequently the Red Hill Road Uniting Church.)



**c.1908 Mrs Janie Shambler  
with sons Wesley (b.1896) and  
Harold (b.1898)**



For most of his years in Gympie, Olive's father Joe Shambler was involved in Choirs, Orchestral Societies etc. as conductor, cellist, soloist and so on. In 1907, the Gympie Presbyterian Church presented Mr Joe Shambler with a gold medallion. It is inscribed "*Presented to J.W. Shambler Esq. by the Gympie Presbyterian Church Choir for valuable services as Conductor. 23.08.1907.*" All this gave Olive a great introduction to her own love of music.

Olive's father in 1910 was one of six men who each took up a 40 acres selection at **Deep Creek** between Cedar Pocket and the Wolvi Range. The address today would be Cavanagh Road at Greens Creek but the 'roads' in those early days, were but tracks winding through the scrub.

Here the family first lived in a rough slab hut built by the males in the family. As soon as Olive's father was able, he set about building a substantial weatherboard home but Mrs Janie Shambler initially had to do all her cooking on an outside open fireplace.



**Typical early settler's hut – Gympie District. Actually the 'Bungawatta Hut', now sited at the Gympie Historical Museum.**

A Provisional School on Cootharaba Road was opened in 1889 and was up-graded to a State School in 1896. Three Shambler children enrolled there in 1910, the School Roll recording their names as No. 332 – Harold, No. 338 - Olive, and No. 344 – Thelma. To get to school, Olive with her older sister Thelma and their big brother Harold walked each day across paddocks and through scrub. In due course, the family acquired a pony which Thelma and Olive together rode to school.

While Olive said that teachers were generally very strict and discipline was harsh for both girls and boys, she always spoke highly to her own children about the wonderful memories she had of Mr W.L. Collings, Head Teacher at Cootharaba Road from 1911 to 1914 – 'a lovely man,' she used to exclaim.



**Olive, aged 7 years**



1910		
331	Hannaway	Rita
332	Shambler	Harold
333	Young	Robert
334	Young	Stanley
335	Noller	Irene
336	Rogers	Mary
337	Godwin	Thomas
338	Shambler	Olive
339	Jeffrey	Mary
340	Shambler	Thelma

**Cootharaba Road State School**  
**From list of pupils compiled 1996**

**COOTHARABA ROAD STATE SCHOOL**  
**LIST OF HEAD TEACHERS**

**compiled 1996**

Castle.	Linda	12/02/1894	30/06/1895
Ferguson.	Lucy Flora	01/07/1895	31/12/1895
Curtin.	Patrick Henry	01/01/1896	31/12/1897
Halcrow.	Hugh William	27/01/1898	27/04/1899
George.	John	07/06/1899	11/10/1900
Geddes.	William	25/10/1900	30/06/1910
(Extended leave from 01.01.1910.)			
Young.	Robert Hugh	01/01/1910	30/06/1911
<u>Collings</u>	Walter Lawrenc	01/07/1911	25/05/1914

That school building still exists although it is privately owned by a neighbour. It has been very well cared for over the years. The building faces what is today called Grecian Bends Road.



**Cootharaba Road State School as it stands today.**



About 1985, Olive re-visited the area and met the present owners. They were pleased to learn about the school building in its early days. Olive was able to recall, even after some 70 years or so, where the children's horse paddock had been, where a tree stood which held the children's swing and where certain games were played. Olive remembered joining in Hopscotch, Skipping, Ring-a-Rosie, Dog and the Bone and so on. The school closed in 1964 with the advent of school buses taking students to larger schools in town.

The travel to school was after the children had brought in the cows and helped with the milking, as they did again in the afternoons. Olive clearly remembered her tasks especially when there were very cold mornings, there being no shoes to be worn for jobs at home in those days, only for school and for church.

Wesley, the elder brother aged 14, was working with his father at this time – clearing land, building fences, planting corn, pumpkin and so on. Olive's second brother Harold was in due course a First Day Student at the Gympie State High School when it opened in 1912. (The School was destroyed by fire in 1955 and was rebuilt. In 1987 Harold attended the School's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.) In due course, Olive's sister Thelma also attended the Gympie State High. She was a very good pianist and rode her pony to town to attend Miss Woolgar's studio for lessons. Thelma in later life became a music teacher.

The family's transport into the city (six miles) was by horse and buckboard - 15 minutes by car these days. On Sundays as on every day of the week, the morning's milking was first necessary.



**Horse Sulky at Gympie Museum**

Olive later recalled that after attending morning worship at Red Hill, the family sometimes had lunch with the Glasgow family on Red Hill Road, or at the home of Miss Margaret McGregor and her sister. Then came the trip home in time for the afternoon milking. (The Glasgow family were highly regarded in Gympie and beyond. Perhaps the best known was Major General Sir William Glasgow.)

Many families in those days, including the Shamblers, adhered strictly to the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment- "Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." Sunday was the Sabbath, the Lord's Day. There were strict rules about not playing games on Sundays and Olive recalled not reading any book other than the Bible on the Lord's Day.

Olive could talk about the tough times on the developing dairy farm at Deep Creek. For some time, both her brothers worked full-time on the farm. Olive was made to work



hard even as a small girl. Bringing in the cows from distant paddocks, and later letting them out was a twice daily task. The family milked something like 100 cows by hand – all Jerseys.

At first, the cream was skimmed off the milk by hand using a wooden paddle and a churn. Later the family acquired a separator. On a slide (a wooden platform on runners), the cream cans were dragged by the draught horse to the roadside box at the front gate to await the cream carrier with his horse and dray. The carrier then took the cream to the Butter Factory in Gympie. This was typical routine for all dairymen in those days.

In due course, bread was delivered to the front gate twice a week, being enclosed in hessian (jute) bags. Hessian flour bags later had many uses such as for hand towels, aprons, house mats and so on. The laundry was done in a copper boiler in a separate shed behind the house. Lighting for the house was by kerosene or petrol lamps. Kerosene was purchased in the inevitable kerosene tin which had so many very useful purposes later.

***The Old Kero Tin***  
(Author unknown)

*There was a tin we used to have in the days of long ago,  
And it contained home kerosene to keep our lights aglow;  
But when that tin was empty, it wasn't thrown away.  
We cut the square top out of it and used it every day.*

*With wire handle on it – and lots of muscle too,  
We'd carry water from the creek, the weekly wash to do.  
Our humble home was kept supplied with water day by day  
With two of these resourceful tins. We had no other way.*

*Dad kept a couple in the shed to hold his tools and gear,  
And also in the stables too, to hold the stock food there.  
With chopped-up cane to feed the stock, we carried them along,  
Molasses in another one to feed the milling throng.*

*Then Mum would keep one on the stove with water hot and steaming  
To bath us in the old tin tub, and keep us clean and gleaming.  
At times, she'd boil Dad's dirty clothes, there on the kitchen stove.  
We kids had one to hold our gear – a regular treasure trove.*

*We cooked our yearly leg of ham in that old kero tin.  
We had one on the gatepost too, to serve as our mail bin.  
There was another use we had (and quite essential too,)  
That tin became a dunny-can, in our outback loo.*

*Then finally, all full of holes, when it had had its day,  
It landed on the rubbish heap and rusted clean away.  
And so the humble kero tin was never once abused.  
You could say that we recycled it –  
although that word was never used.*



As with most farming families, soap would be hand-made by Janie Shambler and jams of various types were made at home – guava, marmalade, gooseberry, melon - with the ingredients being grown on the farm. A nearby creek was used for swimming and was a source of water for the house.



Difficulties or problems around the house which Olive recalled included ticks, possums, wallabies and snakes. Pioneer farmers in those days always kept poultry, and snakes could be their problem too.

Every family bought their syrup and their treacle in 7 lb tins. Damper as a basic food was very common – a simple flour and water dough cooked in the coals or in a camp oven. And later, that empty syrup tin also was very handy, for example as a biscuit tin or as a billy can for carrying milk.

Even the smallest of farm children in those days had their tasks. They could help with the separating and they could feed the pigs. They could plant corn by hand. They could chase wallabies from the crops before fences were erected. Olive once ended up with a broken arm after getting it caught up in a horse-drawn chaff cutter.

Another story Olive delighted in telling was about a pair of shoes handed down to her by a brother. She hated wearing them to school, preferring to go bare-footed. One day, she hid the shoes in a log on her way to school. But on that very day, there was a fire in that paddock. Her listeners never learned of her parents' attitude to the damaged shoes.

Olive's best friend at school was Agatha Onton, a member of one of a number of Finnish families who settled in Gympie. Olive always spoke of Agatha as being top of her class at Cootharaba Road School. When the Shamblers and the Ontons separately left Deep Creek, Olive and Agatha (later to become Mrs Bill Lindstrom) lost track of each other but, years later as adults, they met up again in Brisbane and re-established a very close friendship until Agatha died in the 1960s aged in her 70s.



**Corn Sheller**





**1920s. Agatha Onton,  
(married Bill Lindstrom)**

When there was no feed available at Deep Creek, the Shambler boys would walk the dry cows through the scrub to Tin Can Bay for agistment. (It was to be many years before any sort of road connected Gympie and Tin Can Bay. Tin Can Bay for many years remained a place of small weekend fishing shacks. Today it is a very popular residential, retirement and fishing township.)

The Shambler family at Greens Creek killed their own calves as necessary and, in a room under the house, they also smoked their own bacon. Sawdust was used as fuel, being readily available from the many sawmills in the district. When possible, Mrs Shambler roasted home-grown pig or made her own pork sausages.

With low prices for cream and for pigs, Joe Shambler, after a few years, saw few benefits in remaining in the dairying industry. In addition, he had difficulty in meeting rent instalments to the Lands Department. He did however see possibilities in the banana industry which was then developing in Queensland.

So in 1913, Joe left his family at Deep Creek and moved to **Buderim** in order to build a new family home there and to seek a better income from a banana plantation with a citrus orchard.



**The Shambler home at Buderim – built 1913/14**

That substantial home, now called 'Fleurmont' still exists on Orme Road at Buderim with its million dollar northerly views up the Sunshine Coast. In 1988, Real Estate Agents called the property a "*tastefully restored residence –one of the most desirable properties on the eastern coast of Queensland*". The house certainly is a credit to Joe Shambler as tradesman/builder/tinsmith. Salesmen fully described the house-





**c.1993. 'Fleurmont', Buderim. Sold in 1988.  
Originally built by Joe Shambler in 1913-15.**

#### **"Fleurmont"**

"This beautifully restored Buderim Pioneer Property has been a silent Watchman of the superb northerly views, from the mountains of the hinterland, to the Bli Bli Valley and cane fields, Mt Coolum, Noosa and to the blue Pacific Ocean.

"Fleurmont" is situated on 2820 square hectares on land (on three separate titles) right on top of beautiful Buderim. The sweeping entrance to the property is via a circular drive, leading to beautifully established gardens that were originally part of a coffee plantation built with the aid of South Sea Islanders' labour at the turn of the century. Some of the stone terraces can still be seen, reminding one of the romantic past and the pioneers who achieved it.

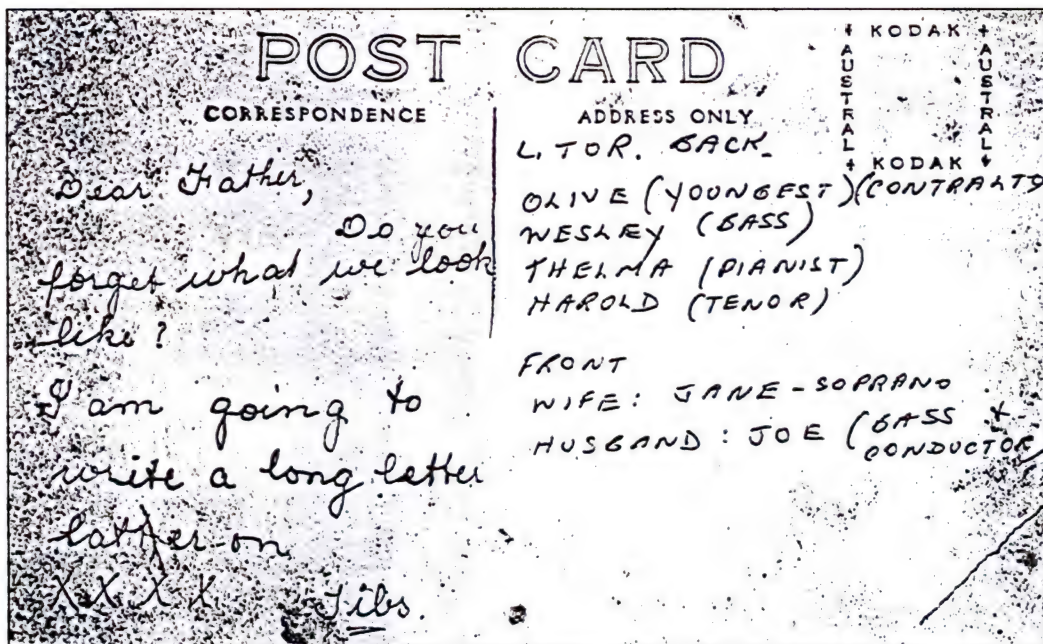
This gracious colonial Queensland home, originally pioneered by Mr J Shambler from Gympie in 1910, has been carefully restored and modernized without losing any of its charm and character. The floor plan has been retained in each of the three bedrooms, lounge, family room (the original kitchen) and verandahs. Modernizing has been restricted to the kitchen, breakfast nook, parent's sunroom, and the two bathrooms. The insect screening compliments the extensive verandahs permitting the French doors to remain open for the tropical summer breezes. The decor of these early times has been retained as far as possible and the whole impression allows one to feel you are stepping back into history. "





**"Fleurmont" on Buderim which has expansive views up the Sunshine Coast. c.1993.**

The house took about two years to build during which time Shambler lived in the packing shed. He was farming and building at the same time, very seldom finding time to return to Gympie.



**c. 1914 – Postcard – Olive ('Tibs') at Gympie to her father on Buderim.**

In the early 1990s, the then owners graciously agreed that the Buderim Historical Society could host a gathering of some descendants of Buderim's pioneer families. Olive, her son and several of her sibling's children were present.



When Joe Shambler was building this house in those pre-World War I days, a Kanaka (South Sea Islander) lady called Mrs Wimbus courteously supplied Joe with food and drink at any times that he was ill. When the house was finished, Mrs Janie Shambler took her family to Buderim to join her husband and their father.

At Buderim, young Olive Shambler attended the local primary school for several years and completed her schooling there.

Sometimes she and her mother picked fruit, sorted and packed it, then loaded up their horse-drawn vehicle.

She could also recall helping Joe Wimbus cut and pack fruit for her father outside school hours. Bunches of bananas as well as hands were loaded on to horse and cart, and taken to the tram which took the produce to the railway at Palmwoods. A 2ft 6ins gauge tramway operated between Buderim Mountain and Palmwoods from 1914 to 1935. From Brisbane, the bananas were shipped to Melbourne by boat but freight prices were always high.



**Janie Shambler and Son Harold picking citrus.**

Even in her latter years (she died at age 99,) Olive could still recall her pet lamb which she called 'Tinkle.' She said the lamb would walk with her to school or to the tram about 300 yards from the packing shed.



**Buderim Shopping Centre 1918**



As the income from fruit was quite low, Olive's father obtained work as a travelling salesman in the Nambour area.

Olive's brother Wesley was in the A.I.F during World War I and served overseas, as did her cousin Arthur Shambler of Gympie.

Joe Shambler had previously found that dairying in Gympie had not brought him financial success. His subsequent venture into fruit farming at Buderim proved another financial disaster - especially when a serious disease in the 1920s virtually put an end to Queensland's banana industry.



**1915. Mr and Mrs J.W. Shambler with family –  
(from left) – Olive (aged 12), Wesley, Thelma, Harold**

It could be mentioned here that the acreage Joe Shambler had on Buderim Mountain overlooked what is now the Sunshine Coast. Today's market value of that block of several acres of now prime residential would be many many millions of dollars.

While living on Buderim, Joe Shambler also obtained a part-time position at the Nambour Rural School instructing boys in metal work. Olive believed that the Nambour Rural School was the first High School in Queensland to teach trade subjects.

From Buderim, the Shambler family travelled to Nambour to attend church. Joe Shambler became the Choirmaster of the Nambour Methodist Church. For some time, the elder Shambler daughter, Thelma, continued her music lessons in Gympie. This necessitated her travelling by horseback down from Buderim to Woombye from where she went by train to Gympie.

As the years went by, each of the four Shambler children married. Harold married Nell Thompson in 1924. Their children were Nolene and Graham. Thelma married Arnold Burnett from the family of Buderim pioneers. They had six children – Dawn, Maureen, Melville, Joan, Lorraine and Trevor. Wesley and his wife Susan Ross had one son – Allan. Olive and Bert Parker's four children are listed later.

No matter where they lived, the Shambler families, both male and female, were heavily involved with church and with community music – as pianists, violinists/cellists, vocalists, accompanists or conductors.



Olive Parker's own family and friends would know that she had music in her blood. She passed her love of music on to her children and to her grandchildren. Olive herself was a good pianist and she had a lovely contralto voice. Over the years, she was often a vocal soloist and always a keen choir member.

In the booklet 'Summary of the Gympie Presbyterian Church, 1868-1952', Joseph Shambler is listed as Church choir conductor. He was written of as "being very energetic and successful in developing the standard and activities of the choir in church work, in concerts and in Eisteddfod competitions."

During several 1919 Peace Celebrations on Buderim, Joe Shambler, his wife Janie and their daughters Thelma and Olive took an active part in the programs. A concert was held on a Saturday evening in July and a "United Worship Service" the next evening.

For the Saturday, one of J.W. Shambler's sons was a committee member. Joe himself was Musical Director and his daughter Thelma was the pianist. Items included solos by J.W. Shambler, also by daughters Thelma and Olive. Olive and her mother were sopranos in the Choir.

At the Sunday evening service, Joe, Thelma and Olive each sang a solo. Thelma sang "Rejoice Greatly" from Handel's "The Messiah" and Olive sang "I Know that My Redeemer Liveth" – also from "The Messiah". All family members were involved in the Choir that evening.

Early in the 1920s, the Shambler family moved to Brisbane, living for a time at Sandgate until the father built another family home, this time at Short Street, **Norman Park**.

Meantime, Joe and Janie's eldest son, Harold Shambler (who followed his father's trade), had commenced business on his own account in Cooroy as a plumber and tinsmith. In 1925, Harold opened a cash grocery store on Tewantin Road at Cooroy. He advertised deliveries being available daily.

Down in the capital city, Joe Shambler was still a jack of all trades to some extent in the metal industry, but we know he had been very well trained from his 12 years with Newbery & Shambler in Gympie and several years of running his own business in Gympie. In Elizabeth Street Brisbane, close to the heart of the city, he commenced work as a self-employed plumber. Travelling to the city each day from Norman Park by train, he had no employees but he made roofing, guttering, water tanks etc. All such items were 'hand-made' in those days, there being no large manufacturing factories. Olive recalled that neighboring businesses in Elizabeth Street were Sam Cook a Silver Plater, and John Brown a Blacksmith who later became a Labor Member of Parliament.



Olive – late 1920s



With the Joe Shambler family living at Norman Park, young Olive Shambler commenced attending Lloyd's Business College in Kent's Building at the corner of Adelaide and Albert Streets, City. This was near the old Tivoli Theatre. The Reserve Bank now occupies the corner,

Joe, Janie and Olive Shambler subsequently moved from Norman Park to Geelong Street, **East Brisbane**. They attended the East Brisbane Methodist Church. Here Olive joined a Girls' Social Club, became involved in the Sunday School as a teacher and of course, she inevitably was a member of the church choir.

While travelling to the city to college every day by tram, Olive Shambler met a young man called Bert Parker. Bert Parker also lived with his family at East Brisbane. After completing his education at East Brisbane Primary School, he worked for the South Brisbane Town Council as a cashier, having commenced employment there at the age of 16 years. (Brisbane's numerous Municipalities were amalgamated into the Brisbane Municipal Council in mid 1920s, later being renamed the Brisbane City Council.

Olive, while learning shorthand, typing and bookkeeping at Lloyd's College, sometimes did work experience with various city businesses. Firms would contact Lloyd's from time to time seeking a temporary stenotypist.

One such 'temp' for the young Shambler girl was with Smith Premier Typewriters in Queen Street. Another 'temp' was with W.J. Tunley & Son who manufactured men's shirts and hessian bags (for chaff). Olive's employment with Tunleys at South Brisbane soon became permanent.

Later, when Joyce Brothers of Sydney bought out the shirt manufacturing side of Tunley's business, Olive continued with Joyce Bros as a telephonist/switchboard operator. The Joyce Bros business faced Stanley Street, opposite Brett's Wharf although the building went right through to Grey Street. The site is now part of the huge Southbank area.

The Shamblers were still at Norman Park when Olive's older sister Thelma married Arnold Burnett in 1923. They lived firstly at Cooran. Later Arnold and Thelma moved to Maroochydore where Arnold became the master butcher. (Many years before, the original Burnett family had been pioneers of the Buderim area.)

Herbert Oliver ('Bert') Parker was part of a large family that lived in Eskgrove Street, East Brisbane, not far away from the Shamblers. The Parkers also attended the East Brisbane Methodist Church. The casual acquaintanceship between Bert Parker and Olive Shambler developed into a closer friendship through church activities and the fact that they both caught the same tram to work each day.

In December 1924, Olive's 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday was celebrated with her family and friends at the Geelong Street home. Olive's workmates at Joyce Bros also gave her another party. Some of the 'girls' who attended became Olive's life-long friends such as Marg Peabody, Bessie Winterflood (later Mrs C.J.J. Watson), and Flora Scott. Olive always valued a fruit bowl, a 21<sup>st</sup> birthday present from her good friend Joyce Clutterbuck. Today that

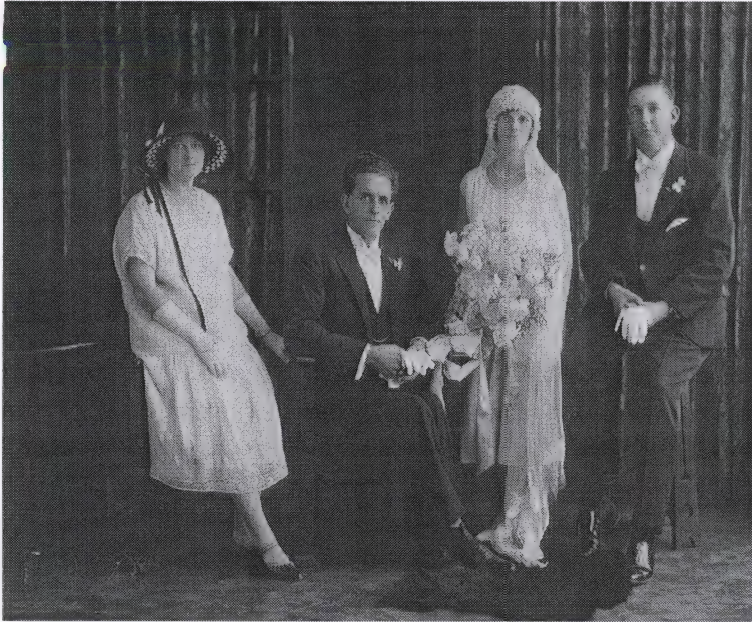


**Mr and Mrs Bert Parker  
Wedding day – 6 Feb. 1926**



bowl is valued by a member of her family.

During 1924 and 1925, Bert Parker and Olive Shambler spent their Saturday evenings together, mostly walking along River Terrace above Kangaroo Point. This is notwithstanding Bert having one leg severely disabled from Poliomyelitis as a young boy. They become engaged in 1924 and were married on 6 February 1926 at the East Brisbane Methodist Church, the officiating minister being the Rev A.H. Stokoe who had baptized Olive as an infant at Gympie 23 years earlier.



**Mr and Mrs Bert Parker wedding day – 6 Feb. 1926.  
Studio wedding photo with Alma Shepherd and  
Frank West**

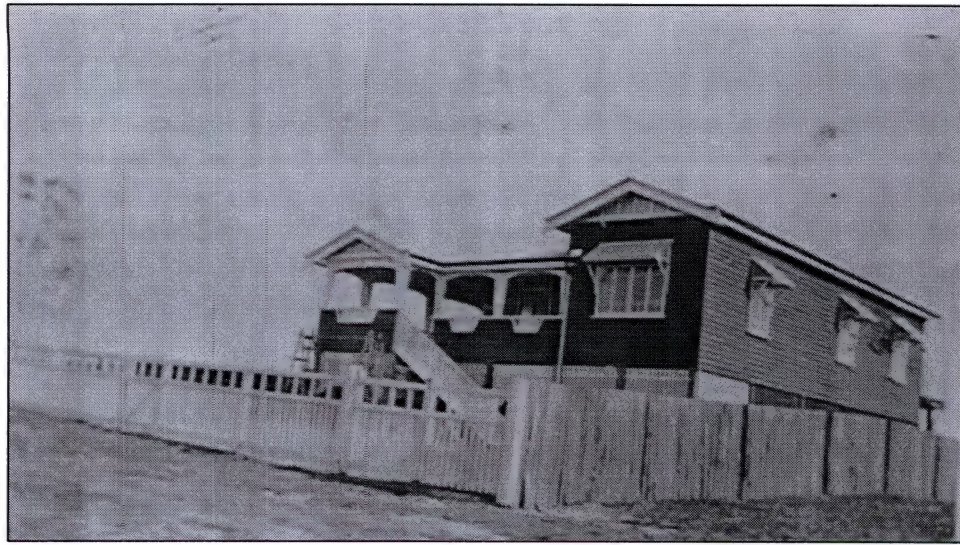
Olive's Bridesmaid was a long-time friend, Alma Shepherd and the Best Man was Frank West. A year later, Frank and Alma themselves married. Frank a policeman, in due course became a Police Inspector. The Parkers and the Wests always remained the closest of friends.

Bert and Olive Parker built a home on a splendid site in Newman Avenue, **Camp Hill** which area was then called Coorparoo Heights. Theirs was only the second house on the hill, and today, houses and land on Newman Avenue are selling for more than a million dollars. The Parker's total cost of the land in 1925 plus the large house was less than 300 pounds (\$600). A loan from the Government's Housing Authority was of course necessary. The view from this home across to the City is still outstanding. This was Olive's home for the next 50 or so years. In due course, Bert and Olive had four children - Dorothy (1926), Keith (1929), Valmai (1933) and Shirley (1936.) The three younger children were all born at home.



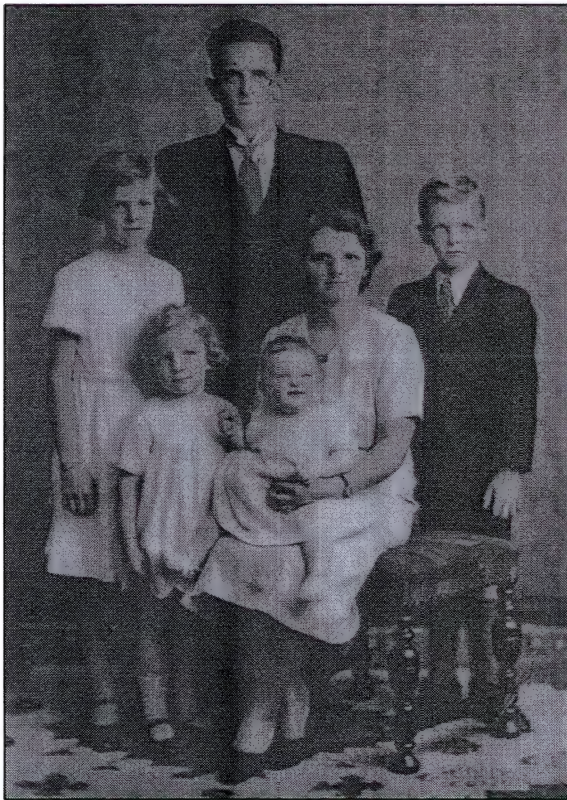
**View towards Brisbane City**





**Bert and Olive Parker's home for over 40 years. Newman Avenue, Camp Hill**

Eventually, the house was concreted underneath, an excellent place for a table tennis table. Despite his disability, Bert loved his 'ping pong' and regular visitors included young ministers from the Theological College on Kangaroo Point, also staff members from the Brisbane City Council's Cashiers' Section.



**1937 – Bert and Olive Parker and family. From left – Dorothy, Valmai, Shirley, Keith**

Bert and Olive Parker were always wonderful hosts. This underneath area, as well as the upstairs rooms, were at various times the scene for literally hundreds of church socials, birthday parties, wedding receptions and anniversaries etc. etc. The home was also the un-official 'pre-natal rest home' for many country friends who were pregnant and waiting for a week or so before they went to the Women's Hospital.

With travel from the country not as convenient as it is today, many were the times that Bert and Olive hosted friends at Newman Avenue when they came down from the country to attend the Brisbane Exhibition. Rarely was there an annual 'Ekka' with less than 10 house guests, for whom Olive did all the cooking.

Over the years, especially in the 1950s and 1960s, Bert and Olive Parker from time to time took in boarders -- not the normal 'boarders', but these were young friends of the family who had moved to Brisbane from other towns to seek permanent residence and employment in the city. Inevitably, they - perhaps up to 8 or 10 at separate times, became Olive's

and Bert's 'adopted' sons and daughters. Olive became known at 'Auntie Ol' and 'Mum' to so many.





**Wesley, Thelma, Olive and Harold, children of Joe and Janie Shambler.  
All four were born at Crescent Road, Gympie.  
Photo taken in 1948 at the wedding reception of Olive's eldest daughter,  
Dorothy, who married Stan Grayson.**

At Olive's death in 2003, Bert and Olive's blood descendants totalled – three children (one pre-deceased her), 15 grandchildren, 30 great grandchildren and three great great grandchildren.

Olive's parents Joe and Janie Shambler died in Brisbane in 1953 and 1959 respectively. Their four children have since passed on – Wesley in 1960, Thelma in 1981, Harold in 1988, and Olive in 2003. While Olive's Shambler siblings have left many descendants, the Shambler name has almost been lost from the Joe Shambler side of the family



**Dawn Dawson (then Burnett)  
with her grandparents – Mr  
and Mrs J.W. Shambler.  
c.1927**





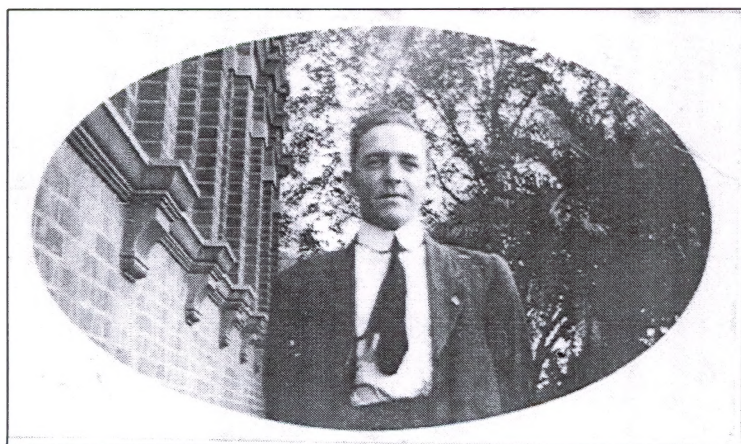
**1945. Mr and Mrs Shambler, on their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding Anniversary**



**Janie (Grandma) Shambler  
aged about 80. c.1952**

Bert Parker, Olive's husband, remained with the Brisbane City Council all his working life.

He held a very responsible position of Chief Cashier for many years, being responsible for a large staff in the days when Council Rates were mostly paid in cash at the one central office in the City Hall - Adelaide Street entrance. There were few cheque accounts then and certainly no plastic cards.



**Bert Parker mid 1920s – Outside South Brisbane Town Hall**

Ill health caused his retirement about 1960. He died in 1970 having, for a number of years been nursed so carefully by his loving wife, firstly at home and later in hospital. Despite his severe affliction since the age of five years – poliomyelitis i.e. paralysis of one leg, Bert (or Herb) Parker was always known as a loving family man and as a very good and helpful friend to a vast spread of people.

A Service of Commemoration for Olive's life was held at her loved Camp Hill Uniting (previously Methodist) Church. The officiating Minister, (a close family friend), recalled an occasion when Olive's husband was a long-time patient (after suffering strokes) at the Princess



Alexandra Hospital on Annerley Road. He said *"Olive also ministered to others there. She fed them too, and did her best to cheer them up. One time, she found that another patient had to celebrate his golden wedding anniversary without his wife being present, so Ma Parker decided to have a celebration in the hospital. She did the work and the newspapers picked it up. Such was her compassion."*



**Bert and Olive Parker - 1959**



**Bert and Olive Parker and their family - 1964**

In 1980, Olive Parker sold the family home on Newman Avenue and moved to a Unit at Coorparoo with one of her 'adopted' sons.



In their middle years, Bert and Olive enjoyed holidays in their 1926 Chevrolet and later in their 1952 Austin A40. This travel was as far north as Rockhampton to visit their son, and down to Melbourne once with a daughter.

As a widow in her 70s, her 80s and even into her 90s, Olive Parker nee Shambler was a great traveller with a number of visits to Britain, Europe and North America – in all cases to visit friends, including the Pahud family in Switzerland who became very close friends of the Parker family. In addition there were trips within Australia, travelling by train, plane, bus and boat, even Safari Tours. Polleys Coaches of Gympie and Herman's Tours of Brisbane knew Olive Parker's name very well.

While in her 60s and 70s, Olive was a volunteer for a 'grannie-sitting' group which cared for 'old people'. She was also a volunteer Carer for the Autistic Children's Association. She was always known as a very caring person.

Prior to Olive's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, her family wrote to lots of people who had known her for many years, to those friends who had enjoyed her family's hospitality and Olive's cooking, and her love and friendship over many decades. These friends were asked to write down some memories of their special friend. These were in due course bound into a book which was presented to Olive on her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The following are quotations from three of the 90 letters. They give some idea of Olive's personality:



**Olive Parker on her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday - 1993**

From Switzerland – *'I have never encountered such a zest for life, with so much positive thinking, especially considering the difficult time that Parky has had to bear.'*

From another friend – *'As I have said before, you are my inspiration. How I wish that I could do the things that you are doing at your age. I know you have said before 'It's all on the mind.' Well, how true that is with you.'*

From another friend – *'I can remember the many parties at Newman Avenue, the songs around the piano, the games and the competitions, the table tennis table downstairs, and not forgetting the wonderful suppers you laid on. They were great and memorable times.'*

After a fall at the age of 95, Olive had found that she could no longer look after herself. She spent the last three years of her life at an Annerley Nursing Home, always cheerful and enjoying visits from family and friends and being very active mentally until her last three months,

For many years around Olive's birthday - 8th December, her family always gathered for a combined Birthday Party-Christmas family reunion. Even as a 99 years old Guest of Honour late in 2002, Olive Parker enjoyed herself immensely and surprised her large family by making a very good Thank You speech.



There have been seven generations of Olive's family to have lived in Gympie, although not continuously – commencing with Olive's grandparents (the Prings) and down to her great great grandsons, Jacob born in 1999, Harrison born in 2010 and Riley in 2011.

And so on 27 March 2003 - nine months before the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her birth in Gympie - Olive Vera Parker nee Shambler departed this life. Born and raised in Gympie, she always happy to tell folks that she was a Gympie girl, -- **one of the Shamblers of Gympie.**